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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israelis, Jordanians Coordinate Rabin-Husayn Meeting

TA0911180893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Senior officials in the [Israeli] Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry conferred with senior Jordanian Government officials over the past few days to finalize an agreement between the two states, our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned. The officials coordinated the ceremony for a planned meeting between King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin. The Prime Minister's Office refused to confirm the report and said it is unauthorized.

Yasir 'Arafat told a news conference in Brussels that Jordan and Israel would sign a friendship agreement in a few days, but refused to go into details. Referring to that, Minister Yosi Sarid said in Jerusalem that if 'Arafat says an Israeli-Jordanian agreement is about to be signed soon, perhaps he knows what he is talking about.

Paper Reports on Israeli-Syrian Meeting in Cairo

NC0911164693 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ushari]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I's correspondent has learned that Ya'qov Neriah, policy adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, arrived in Cairo on Wednesday [3 November] evening aboard a private plane and held a series of separate, secret talks yesterday with both Syrian and Palestinian officials for several hours. The objective of these talks was to resolve the dispute that erupted between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations during the Taba meetings and to present an alternative to the Israeli proposal for the withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho that the Palestinian delegation had objected to and had completely rejected. He also discussed with the Syrian officials an Israeli proposal for withdrawing from the Golan Heights in exchange for a promise to establish political relations between the two countries in stages.

Yitzhaq Rabin's envoy left Cairo yesterday evening and returned to Tel Aviv, but there has been no information about the results of these secret meetings.

Gaza-Jericho 'Reduced' Committee Resumes Talks

Talks Aim at Resolving 'Differences'

NC0911154193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—The reduced Palestinian-Israeli Committee examining the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement resumed its meetings in Cairo this morning. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, is leading the Palestinian side. Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff, is leading the Israeli side at the talks.

A diplomatic source told MENA that there are still a number of differences between the two sides, particularly concerning the withdrawal from Gaza. The Palestinian side is calling for a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, while the Israeli side is merely offering a redeployment of the Israeli forces in the Strip that involves withdrawing from certain residential areas, the source added.

The diplomatic source said that, despite the differences, progress was made on in some issues, particularly on the release of a large number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails. Palestinian sources had disclosed that there are 12,000 Palestinian detainees.

The diplomatic source said that the aim of today's meeting of the reduced Palestinian-Israeli Committee is to resolve the remaining differences between the two sides. The source said that the two sides agreed that the meetings of the plenary Gaza-Jericho Committee will resume in Taba on Sunday.

The reduced Palestinian-Israeli Committee, which comprises four members from each side, began its meetings in Cairo yesterday. The goal of these meetings is to remove the obstacles that led to the suspension of the meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee in Taba last week.

'Constructive Atmosphere' Noted

NC0911173793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] A joint statement was issued in Cairo tonight after the Palestinian-Israeli talks. The statement notes that the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations were conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere, adding that progress has been made on several issues. The talks will resume next week, the statement notes. The statement thanks President Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian Government, and the people of Egypt for hosting the talks and offering every possible assistance in this regard.

Sha'th: 'Significant' Progress Achieved

NC1011090593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2252 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation on the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has announced that the reduced Committee meetings between the Palestinian and Israeli sides held in Cairo yesterday and today achieved significant progress and created a radical change in the Israeli concept of withdrawal from Gaza.

He said this progress has made it possible for the Gaza-Jericho Committee to resume its meetings in Taba next week to discuss details of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Speaking on television tonight, he said the reduced Committee also discussed at its meetings in Cairo the definition of the Jericho region's area and a plan for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from that area.

He added in his statements on television tonight that president 'Arafat will enter Gaza and Jericho in January after the Israeli forces' withdrawal and at the beginning of Palestinian authority there.

He noted that the withdrawal from the West Bank will start on 13 April and will last for three months and that elections for the Palestinian national council will be held in July.

He praised Egypt's role in advancing the peace process and changing the intransigent Israeli stance on the Taba talks. He said that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's trip to Israel after the Palestinian side suspended the Taba talks had an important effect in changing the Israeli stand.

He noted that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is not an isolated or separate one but part of a comprehensive settlement. He said that progress in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will affect other tracks. He emphasized the importance of achieving a Syrian-Israeli agreement and expressed hope that progress will be made on the Syrian track and that the Israeli forces will withdraw from the Golan, noting that this will strengthen the Palestinian position.

Dr. Sha'th said that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho will enhance the confidence that the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles will lead to a full withdrawal, the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, and the achievement of a genuine peace treaty not only with Palestine but with other Arab sides.

He said: Negotiations with the Israeli side are not easy and they are the beginning of a long road on which we have set foot and on which we have to tread to recover our rights. He added: We spent about 22 months in Washington and there was a feeling that there was no hope in accomplishing anything. This time, however, we are about to reach agreements.

He remarked that the Palestinian nation has waged an armed struggle for over 40 years and an intifadah for six years and must obtain its rights. He said: I am cautiously optimistic and feel that achieving results in these negotiations is possible. He stressed the importance of publicizing the results of the negotiations to enable the public to know what is happening.

Also taking part in the television debate, Dr. ('Ali-al-Din) Hilal, head of the Cairo University Political Studies Center, affirmed that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement has devised principles for establishing sound relations between the two sides. He pointed out that the negotiations are not easy and that progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track will affect other tracks.

He said that a negotiator always seeks the interest of his people and country and that Israel wanted, through the Taba talks, to test the will of the Palestinian side and see whether it will cling to its rights or accept what is imposed on it.

Noting the importance of the Syrian track, he said that there is a regional and international consensus on the importance of the Syrian role and that a solution to the Palestinian issue cannot be achieved without Syria. He said the resumption of the Taba talks is a positive development and that Israel's seriousness in implementing the Palestinian agreement will give a push to the Syrian-Israeli track and others. He pointed out that there are signs of (?progress) being made on the Jordanian-Israeli track that may be announced in the next few days.

Savir Views Progress in Economic Multilaterals

TA0911203693 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Interview with Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir in the Copenhagen studio by anchor Hayim Yavin and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Uri Savir is in Copenhagen for the multilateral talks. Uri, what has already been agreed upon with the Jordanians?

[Savir] Today, we completed two days of talks in which not only the Jordanians, but also a number of other Arab states, as well as the Palestinians, participated. There was a very interesting consensus—in fact, a breakthrough—in the multilateral economic field. Agreement was reached today on starting work on a number of economic projects. Some of them—such as building highways linking al-'Aqabah and Elat, and Amman with Jerusalem—will focus on Jordan. The Jordanian delegation supported these projects. It is the first time they have supported a joint feasibility survey. They talked directly with us on those issues. In general, the atmosphere was different. The breakthrough in the multilaterals, which comes simultaneously with the breakthrough in the bilaterals, also holds for other Arab states.

[Ya'ari] What is holding up the Jordanians now from taking operative steps rather than just feasibility surveys in the economic field? Over the past year or two, we received from the Jordanians several hints that they would be prepared to start doing things, such as permitting tourist flights from 'Atarot to Amman. What is preventing them from taking such practical steps now?

[Savir] I think they are advancing along those lines. First of all, we are meeting. There was also an informal tripartite meeting Foreign Minister Peres set up when he met with Prince Hasan during his visit to President

Clinton. There is, in fact, a whole series of projects which call for implementing joint economic interests between ourselves, Jordan, and the Palestinians. Ehud, I believe that what has happened is that the agreement between us and the PLO, which at first caused irritation, has given a serious push not only to aspirations for peace, but it has also made the wheels of peace turn. We are starting to discuss with Jordan and the Palestinians various projects. Today, we decided on 33 regional projects, many with Jordan. We will discuss tourism, transportation, energy, and the Dead Sea. All those were agreed upon today. Implementation takes time, but the very fact that there is an agreement is significant because it is no longer a question of a price being paid, it is now an expression of self-interest for the Jordanians, Palestinians, and all the others who participated in the conference.

[Yavin] Uri, there are all sorts of rumors and partial reports about a meeting between the prime minister and King Husayn. Can you enlighten us?

[Savir] No, I cannot. I think we should listen to what Husayn said [in his Amman news conference on 9 November]. I think it is of great significance. In general, such meetings are significant for public opinion, agreements, signatures, and political discussions. There is no doubt that we still have problems, but I believe that what is important when talking about peace is to define what we are talking about. Yesterday and today here in Copenhagen, we, the Jordanians, and the others started defining the contents of the peace; that is, primarily economic cooperation. There is enormous interest in having the private sector contribute. It is clear to them that without peace, without a political settlement, the private sector in the United States, Japan, and Europe just will not come. We had detailed discussions on that, and I believe it is no less important than the political framework and the political drama, which are the ones drawing attention. Daily lives will be influenced no less by what is agreed on here today, and what will be decided in the future between us and Jordan. There is still a great deal of work to be done in the tripartite context. We will have to make decisions, work with them on assets, finance, economic cooperation. It will not be easy, but since there is a joint interest and desire to succeed, I think we are moving in the direct direction.

[Ya'ari] In reference to a marginal issue, Mr. Savir, do the Jordanians and Palestinians you met in Copenhagen see those economic aspects in the same light?

[Savir] That is perhaps the most interesting thing. Yesterday, we held an informal meeting with the Jordanians, Palestinians, and Egyptians, which the Bank of Israel governor attended. When discussions touched on economic subjects the Jordanians and Palestinian showed joint interests. It is clear to them that competition will harm them in economic development and that they will have to cooperate not only between themselves, but also with Israel, and they said so openly. It is true that there are still political gaps with Jordan and the Palestinians, and negotiations will still be tough, but your question is very significant because it reflects the joint view held by Jordan and the PLO at an early stage of the process: that if we do not work together and we do not make joint decisions on assets, currency, trade, projects, we will not be able to advance economically and prevent instability.

[Yavin] What you are telling us is that we should be patient. Thank you, Uri Savir.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Mediating Kuwait-Iraq POW Issue

PM0811103293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Nov 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Kuwait Seeks Indonesia's Help To Resolve Crisis; New Attempt by 'Abd-al-Majid To Close Prisoners File"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Well-informed sources in Cairo said yesterday that Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has begun a urgent series of contacts with Kuwait to explore its position on the Iraqi proposal received by King Hassan of Morocco to resolve the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners held by Iraq, by forming an Arab committee to discuss the crisis and settle the dispute between the two countries.

Arab sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Cairo that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will within days send a special envoy on a shuttle tour between Baghdad and Kuwait to reconcile the two sides' proposals, especially as 'Abd-al-Majid received new Kuwaiti assurances that Kuwaiti is confining itself to the 627 files concerning the Kuwaiti prisoners there, meeting the Iraqi authorities' request to confine itself to them—an indication that, if a compromise is not achieved, a fact-finding committee is expected to be formed to examine this issue.

Kuwait had sharply criticized the Iraqi proposal, describing it as an Iraqi attempt to evade implementation of the international resolutions. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Addresses Arab League Committee

JN0811180993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has said that the Arab states have the full right to gain access to scientific know-how and obtain technology to promote the process of economic, industrial, and agricultural development in order to enhance the standing of the Arab nation among the community of nations.

In remarks made at the morning meeting held by Arab information experts, Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League and Iraqi representative to the information experts committee, added that the Arab media contribute to the promotion of Arab causes and defend the Arab states' rights in various domains, including joint water resources and the Arab

states' right to use and share them. He added that the Arab media must shoulder their serious responsibilities at this point in time in the Arab nation's history. The Arab media, he noted, must underscore the need to meet external challenges and dangers, contribute to the promotion of inter-Arab cooperation, and highlight the development achieved by the Arab nation.

The Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League said that peace, from the pan-Arab perspective, must be just, comprehensive, and durable. Besides, it must ensure the restoration of the legitimate and historical rights of the Palestinian people, he added. Peace must be consolidated by clearing the Middle East region of weapons of mass destruction, he noted.

The Arab information experts committee concluded its meetings today after it discussed the Arab information strategy for the upcoming phase, the role the Arab media can play to promote Arab causes, and the state of affairs of the Arab League missions abroad.

Iraqi Arab League Envoy Cited on Blockade

JN0611184293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Iraq has affirmed that the suspect campaign that is being led by some anti-Iraq circles has absolutely nothing to do with the sublime aims of human rights, but is intended to harm Iraq and its unity and sovereignty under various pretexts.

In response to queries by Arab press and foreign news media in Cairo on the allegations raised against Iraq, Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, said that some anti-Iraq and anti-Arab quarters are pursuing suspect, known methods that are basically aimed at maintaining the iniquitous blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He said that in its essence, this blockade constitutes the ugliest violation of human rights in the world.

An INA correspondent in Cairo cited Dr. Nabil Najm as saying that some known anti-Iraq circles have come to realize that there is rising international condemnation of the blockade and demands for lifting it. Thus, he said, these quarters have begun to fabricate stories to affect Iraq's position after Iraq thwarted their pretexts by its full, unambiguous commitment to international resolutions, the latest of which is Resolution 687.

In response to a question on the objectives of the recent anti-Iraq campaign, Iraq's permanent representative affirmed that among the objectives of the campaign is the maintenance of the air exclusion zones over some parts of Iraq. He noted that such zones are hostile, have no connection with UN Security Council resolutions, and are a flagrant violation of international charters and relations.

He indicated that this biased, fabricated campaign, whose source is known, is aimed at interfering again in Iraq's domestic affairs, under the pretext of human rights. He noted that Iraqis were pioneers in the field of human rights, because they have taught mankind the legislation of human and civilian rights in the laws of Iraqi leader Hammurabi.

AMU Secretary Reviews Ties, Lockerbie with Musa

NC0911200593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today received Mohammed Amamou, secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], who is currently visiting Cairo.

Following the meeting, Amamou said he and Minister Musa discussed ways of bolstering relations between the AMU and Egypt and reviewed the Libyan-West crisis. Amamou pointed out that Arab countries, particularly Egypt, are trying to find a satisfactory solution of that crisis, one that would help alleviate tension in the region.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, EC's Delors Hold Joint News Conference

Delors Gives Opening Statement

LD0911205493 Ecully Euronews Television in French 1354 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Opening statement by Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, at a joint news conference with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, in Brussels; broadcast in progress; live; Delors speaks in French with simultaneous English translation—his remarks are processed from the French]

[Text] ...one of the imperative conditions for success is that, when President 'Arafat goes to Jericho as planned in January 1994, the administrative and economic machinery of the liberated territories should be working. This requires much money, technical assistance, and cooperation: the international community will have to pay a great deal of attention to this problem. I will not reiterate the EC's position since 1980 on the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, nor the financial and technical efforts that we have made on behalf of the occupied territories since 1971. We are glad to have done all this, and we have the feeling today that the needs of the Palestinian people are far greater than the aid which has until now been promised by the EC. An effort must now be made by the international community as a whole. Let us just say that the EC was already present in the occupied territories.

To give you another example of our willingness to act: We decided to release 90 billion [as heard] ECU's as soon as we learned of the peace accord and its subsequent ratification on 13 September; well, these 90 million ECU's are already earmarked in Gaza and Jericho for the universities, for housing, food aid, administrative aid, and others still. I hope that next year we can do more and better.

[?These are] all problems we discussed with President 'Arafat, the president of the National Palestinian Authority, as well as the procedures needing to be set up so that this aid, whatever its form—grants, loans, or other—can be processed in the best possible way. We concentrated mainly on the short term in our discussions today, concerned as we are that the initial steps of this experiment and of the peace process should be successful.

Having said this, please allow me to hand you over to President 'Arafat.

'Arafat Delivers Opening Remarks

LD0911164893 Ecully Euronews Television Network in English 1357 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Opening remarks by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, during a news conference with media representatives in Brussels—live, in Arabic with simultaneous translation into English]

[Text] I should like, first of all, to express my thanks to President Delors and his colleagues in the economic European economy [as heard] [words indistinct] those we met yesterday and those we met today. I delivered an address a moment ago, and I would like to repeat this for you. We have a proverb in Arabic, which is that friendship is only known in adversity. And, in fact, the European Community has been a generous donor (?at) the Washington [word indistinct] for the benefit of the Palestinian people to build its new state. Not only this, but it is well known the EC has always diligently provided all forms of assistance, whether through the Common Market or through bilateral relations that we have with the different European countries. We are justified to say that the Europeans are really our friends because they have been our friends in adversity, and I like here to reiterate my thanks, my warmest thanks to you, Mr. President.

The talks we have had were extremely interesting and important. We have gone into the details. We know that this opportunity for peace should be given all the chances for success. And this relies considerably on our brothers and our friends. And the different forms of assistance, whether political, economic, or moral that could be provided to our Palestinian people are welcome. And we are thankful to him [sentence as heard].

Let me point out (?to) this stage in clearest terms, to refer to the resolution passed by the National Palestinian Council. When it approved the peace agreement between us and Israel, the National Council—Palestinian National Council—also adopted another resolution concerning the establishment of a national Palestinian authority and, in other words, the government of the new state of Palestine. And, at the same time, the council recommended the setting up very rapidly of appropriate structures for this authority to operate with.

We have also been assisted by the World Bank to establish a council, an economic council for development and reconstruction. And this council also appointed a board of governors, comprising 14 members, so that this body could deal with economic cooperation, development, and reconstruction work, according to the recommendations and advice we have received. And we have followed very closely these recommendations, because we know that these recommendations can boost cooperation to all [word indistinct], cooperation, facilitate cooperation between us and the different donors, whether they are direct contributors, as Mr. Delors said, from the EC, or through the Development Bank—the Palestinian Development Bank—which we hope we can jointly, to overcome all obstacles on its way, so that we can set up this financial institutions in, within the shortest possible time. [sentence as heard]

At this point, I must refer, I must express my thanks—anticipated thanks—for the assistance that the EC would provide to this effect. I said that we have a resolution to pursue, then, economic liberalization and market economy systems. This is our choice and, of course, we want to involve all our energies, all our skills.

As you know, the Palestinian people boasts a very high rate of educated, qualified people. We even have an edge over the Israelis (?in a sense), as the (?Gafutz) Institute in Israel recognizes. This institute says that out of every thousand Israeli students there are 14 that reach the graduate level; while, for the Palestinians, we have 18 graduates for every thousand students. This was not my report; this was an Israeli report.

So, peace is, in our opinion, an international responsibility. It's not simply a Palestinian, Arab, or Israeli responsibility. You know full well that we are fully determined to move forward with the peace process, to continue the steps that we have already achieved and that we hope that there will be an implementation, a full implementation, of the agreement we have reached in Washington.

I must express my, at this point, my pride over the historical bond, the historical relationship, the geopolitical relationship we have with Europe over history. We all live around the small lake called the Mediterranean Sea, and through this sea we have exchanged civilization, history, culture, and everything, indeed.

Therefore, let me say, that the special relationship between the Arab nation, the Arab world, and Europe, is an ancient time, age-old relationship steeped in history. And we will certainly continue, then, this cooperation at all levels with the, of course, the good faith and motivations that Europe has to help us. Thank you.

'Arafat, Delors Address Journalists

LD0911190093 Ecully Euronews Television Network in English 1407 GMT 9 Nov 93

[News conference by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and EC Commission President

Jacques Delors in Brussels; correspondents individually identified where possible—live, 'Arafat in Arabic with simultaneous English translation and Delors in French with simultaneous English translation]

[Text] [Correspondent] President 'Arafat, unfortunately today I didn't hear you giving an overall evaluation of the situation since 13 September. Have irreversible steps been taken, are we past the point of no return, are there still major dangers? Do you feel that the difficulties in negotiations with the other neighboring Arab countries are going to be an obstacle for you in bringing about peace in the region?

['Arafat] You are trying there to make me say things that I would not like to say. Without doubt, we consider that a global and just peace in the Arab world must be a global process and must involve all the different fronts, whether Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, or Lebanese. And as you know, we have made (?considerable) steps on the Palestinian front, and we consider what we have achieved is just a beginning, a very important beginning, to bring about peace for the entire region. And we know that Jordan is going to sign within a few days a final agreement; similarly Syria and Lebanon, as you well know, have already started through some mediation to push then for this peace process and to have their own agreement with Israel, so that we can finally reach a global, just, and lasting peace for the whole area. Thank you.

[Firezi] Antonio Firezi, RAI, Italian Television. President, what do you think of the fact that while you are here, talking about the future of your country, 10 factions and the Damascus cartel have started a general strike in Jericho, and what do you think of the fact that [words indistinct] (?today) in Beirut?

['Arafat] Is there a strike in Jericho? I don't think you know the population of Jericho. There are some 18,000 people, and in the camp around Jericho they do not exceed 20,000 people, so the word strike is perhaps a bit excessive. And then, do you really believe that we, we who believe in democracy, in multi-party system, in multi-pluralism, that we stand against strikse, against the expression of public opinion? Our constitution guarantees the freedom of opinion, the freedom of expression, and the right to have differences; the majority respects the opinion of the majority, while the minority of course commits pledges, of course respect to the opinion of the majority [as heard]. As Voltaire said, I may disagree with you, but I am willing to fight to defend your right to disagree.

[Varelhas] Julio Varelhas from Spanish Television. I'd like to ask two questions. First of all, a question regarding the journey of the Spanish king to Israel, which is taking place at this very moment, and also about the future of Jerusalem. What type of solution do you envisage for Jerusalem?

['Arafat] The Israeli side has often said that it has a red line for Jerusalem. But at the same time we do have five red lines with regard to Jerusalem—the Palestinian, the Arab line, the Christian red line, and the Islamic red line [sentence as heard]. But I welcomed what Meretz, the movement of Meretz, and Mapam said: Why shouldn't Jerusalem be the capital of two states? This would be the ideal solution. Isn't Brussels the capital of different, three or four ethnical groups? So, if there is a will there is a way. Do not forget that Jerusalem is a sacred, a holy place of worship for the three divine religions—Islam, Christianism, and Judaism.

As to the visit that his majesty the king is making in Israel, I also have received an invitation to visit, in my turn, Spain, and I hope we will meet you there.

[Barber] Lionel Barber of the FINANCIAL TIMES. A question, if I may, to President 'Arafat and then to President Delors. President 'Arafat, you talked about your interest and support in economic liberalization. Are you now ready then to come out unequivocally in favor of dropping the Arab boycott? And could I ask President Delors whether the commission in its discussions today at all addressed, raised the question, of the Arab boycott in terms of generating trade, jobs, and prosperity in the region?

['Arafat] What is the relationship of the Arab boycott with a market economy or economic liberalization? I think you are making some confusion there. The United States has a free market; everybody knows that. But it still imposes an embargo on Cuba and nobody, of course, prohibits this. It's a situation between Cuba and the United States. In the Arab region there is still a state of war between the Arab states and Israel, and we went to the Madrid conference in order to put an end to this war, and in order to bring about a global and just peace on all Arab fronts; once this can be achieved then the state of war will end and then there should be a reconsideration of the topic to which you have referred.

[Delors] We did not discuss the question of the Arab boycott, but I would just like to say that, as soon as we heard about the peace talks, I thought that the Community had a two-fold duty: a duty to the Palestinians, to help them build their national state, while remaining conscious of the fact that the first steps would be the most difficult, and would perhaps be decisive, given the opposition which as you know exists.

Our other duty is to Israel, which has bravely decided to invest in peace, and which must be reassured that, as regards the developed part of its economy, it can increasingly count on the Common Market, the great internal market, and on cooperation with the European Community.

These are the two steps which we immediately took. I have other, more ambitious projects for the future, about which I spoke with President 'Arafat, but it is not the time now to speak about it. I repeat: We cannot sufficiently emphasize the extent to which the coming months will be decisive for the victory of peace over war, for the progressive victory of mutual recognition over the rejection of the other. We must therefore concentrate all our efforts on these first months. President 'Arafat himself has told you that for this purpose he has set up a

political structure, the National Palestinian Authority, and a Council for the Development and Reconstruction of Palestine, which is the instrument which will allow the setting up, initially in Gaza and Jericho, of working administrative structures.

The Palestinians expect a lot from the arrival of President 'Arafat in this country, just as the former communist countries had great expectations after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and you saw how difficult it was to fulfil those expectations. There are enormous expectations in Gaza and Jericho, there are terrible problems to be solved: the problem of hygiene, electricity, water, housing, food aid. I would not wish to speak of anything else for now, but only to try to muster as much help as possible to get through these first months.

['Arafat] I must point out that you should ask the Israelis to stop their boycott of Palestinian products. Israel exercises a full boycott system against Palestinian production, and as an occupation authority it prevents all Palestinian products from being imported into Israel.

[Palmer] John Palmer of the GUARDIAN newspaper. Two questions for President 'Arafat, if I may. The first is this: Do you have any news in the last 24 hours about a possible resumption of negotiations at Taba? Secondly, have you thought about the possibility in the medium term that the Palestinian state, Israel and its Arab neighbors, might form something of an economic community, a collective economic entity, to perhaps reproduce some of the characteristics of the European Community in its early post-war years?

['Arafat] First of all, the meetings of the subcommittee continue, the sub-committee which was set up on the proposal of President Mubarak, who sent his foreign minister to Israel in order to overcome the difficulties that we had to face in Taba, and the meetings of this subcommittee are continuing. When those meetings end I can answer your question, and we do hope that this subcommittee will be able to remove all the obstacles that were raised during the Taba meetings.

With regard to your question on the economic community, no doubt we—there has been talk about a small Marshall Plan for our area—do hope that we can have further and more ample information on this project, on this mini Marshall Plan, which we welcome very heartily. And do not also forget that there are some special meetings being held on this special, specific issue and which have not yet ended, within the framework, within the economic commission of multilateral negotiations.

[Matteoli] Matteoli from RAI, Italian television, for both Chairman 'Arafat and President Delors. You have already mentioned the Syrian problem—indifference if not outright opposition—to the agreement. How do you plan to cope with it? And Mr. Delors: How can Europe help the Palestinians on that particular point? And to Chairman 'Arafat: Have you decided to accept or reject the resignation from the board of governors, economic governors, of one of its more well-known members; I don't know how to pronounce the name, but you know better than me. Thanks.

['Arafat] First of all, there has been no resignation. There was simply an apology on the part of one member, who said that he would not have the time to continue to work within the board of governors, while he said that he would continue to be a member of the Economic Council. And of course, he is free.

The other point you refer to with respect to Syria: The Syrian position is a declared one, a public one. The Syrians, as you know, adopt, well, they shelter a part of the Palestinian opposition. But let me tell you that I accept every kind of opposition if it is a Palestinian opposition. What I reject would be a foreign opposition, wherever it may come from. We can only welcome then that there is a Palestinian opposition in Syria, but if this should come from outside, from other parties, then this would be considered as interference with our domestic affairs. And we do at the same time encourage the steps already made at Syrian level which we hope are going to be crowned with success. And the same to Lebanon, and with the ultimate objective of reaching a final agreement, a settlement for all.

[Delors] In recognizing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to a state as early as 1980, and having reiterated this stance since then to all the countries in the region, having given our full backing to the peace process, we have the feeling that the Community has lent its political weight at a time in history where the political process is dominant. I said a moment ago that I had projects for the future. These are projects of an economic nature which might well interest several countries in the region, but now is not the time to discuss them and to confuse the situation further. What is important now is that in January 1994, when President 'Arafat sets up his headquarters in Jericho, he will be able to give his people the feeling, more than the feeling, that things are moving forward toward the gradual creation of a Palestinian state. For this, the international community as a whole must back this effort, politically, economically, and financially.

As to the rest, negotiations are under way between Israel and a number of countries in the region, between the National Palestinian Authority and a number of countries in the region. This is a largely political process. We have chosen which side we are on; we are backing this peace process. If one day the economic argument were to appear stronger, and to convince people to join this process of peace and mutual recognition, then we shall use it, but that time has not yet come.

[Unidentified AFP correspondent] Agence France-Presse. Yesterday you talked about the possibility of sending a multinational force to Gaza and Jericho. Now what would the role of that multinational force be, and where would the European Union be involved?

['Arafat] On the basis of the agreement we have reached, we talked about an international presence. This could be a UN force, which Israel has rejected so far, or a multinational force, a multinational force which will help, first, and which will help us and the Israelis with the problem of withdrawal, and with the secure areas, and with the access of ways to Jericho and to Gaza, and also to sponsor the elections. In addition, of course, of the help in the area of security.

[Unidentified correspondent:] Mr. 'Arafat, after these two days of visits, have you cleared up the ambiguities in relation to certain European opinions, whereby Palestinians haven't defined their capacity absorption for aid? Have you clarified matters relating to financial issues and, Mr. Delors, are you going to play a role in organizing the elections next year, in other words in material terms?

['Arafat] As you well know, we take a great pride in our skills and in our expertise. We are a really, have very qualified people and we have participated proudly in the establishment of many institutions, state institutions, in different Arab countries, and this is a great mark of pride to us. There's no doubt of course that these cadres will also help build the Palestinian state and the national Palestinian authority. But as far as the plan we are going to present in detail is concerned, this plan which will be of course presented by the economic council for development and reconstruction in Palestine, this plan will abide of course by the criteria, norms, and also the conditions and terms set by the investors and the World Bank, as well as by other countries who would participate them in financing this. All our projects, of course, have been studied extensively. Some of the projects have not yet received enough consideration, especially with regard to the airports and ports, but we do expect to have this completed in the next few days and this will help us then achieve some of the projects.

[Delors] Our aid to the occupied territories in the period 1972 to 1992 was delivered within the framework of the status enjoyed by the Palestinians at the time, either through the intermediary of the UNHCR or directly [with the Palestinians], with the European Community making considerable efforts to enable the Palestinians from the Occupied Territories to export their products.

This year, in 1993, we have released emergency aid equivalent to $110 million, which has already been earmarked on the ground for the most urgent tasks or for projects which had already been undertaken. Henceforth, however, for purposes of aid, we are dealing with the Palestinian National Authority, and in particular, the Council for the Development and Reconstruction of Palestine. This Council, which is presided over by President 'Arafat himself, and also has a number of governors, is set up as a committee.

This is the institution with which we shall deal in order to determine the needs. These needs can be split into three categories: the setting up and the functioning of administrative structures in Gaza and Jericho; the setting up of a security force—for the agreement sets out that, from 13 December, the Palestinians will be responsible for their own security. This is an enormous burden: 25,000 policemen, well-equipped cars, and helicopters will be needed. Finally, there are considerable urgent needs, which include food aid, for I am afraid that there are some places in Gaza where the question of food itself could arise.

All these needs will be defined by the national Palestinian authority, and we shall deal directly with it. It will also have to decide whether it needs our material or our technical support in order to hold elections. It must be quite clear: The setting has completely changed. We are now dealing with a single body. President 'Arafat, the president of the National Palestinian Authority, is accountable to his people. It is with him and his aides alone that we shall be dealing.

[Correspondent] What about specific aid for the elections, Mr. Delors?

[Delors] I told you: If the National Palestinian Authority asks us for material help to organize the elections, we have a sum which has been set aside for this purpose; but we are dealing with an independent territory, and it is up to it to decide whether it needs our aid.

[Unidentified Mexican news agency correspondent] President 'Arafat, as the construction process, the building of Palestine, you said you accepted any ('old') position as long as it was Palestinian. What about Hamas, for example, the Hamas Movement? They are against the peace process and some of them are rather violent, so what kind of guarantees can you give to the international community that you will be able to discuss matters with Hamas and involve them in the peace process? Or maybe you're not in a position to give us the guarantees on that point?

['Arafat] It's not only the Hamas Movement—the Popular Front includes many people who oppose the agreement. This Popular Front, most of the people in the Popular Front, are with the agreement, but there are some people who are against. Hamas—and I hope that you have read a statement made by Ahmad Yasin who is the leader of Hamas, who is imprisoned by the Israelis—and who said that he is going to take part in the forthcoming elections. We have to consider this, to take this into account, and we cannot but reiterate here that any opposition within the Palestinian people, Palestinian democracy, will be welcome and will be dealt with in a democratic way.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Chairman ['Arafat], you said yesterday that the PLO has an economic council that can push economic development of the area. My question is: Do you think that over the last two days you have been able to convince the EC, and in particular President Delors, of the kind of work you are going to carry out within this council, and of course the plan that you are going of course to implement to this effect.

['Arafat] Your question on whether we have convinced or not, I don't know, but we are doing some efforts. We have established this body, this economic council, and we have submitted of course this to the EC and to President Delors yesterday and today again. Yesterday with the foreign ministers and today with the economic council we put forward and we explained this Palestinian effort, and of course they welcomed the initiative and accepted to help us, and I hope that the experience in the next few months will show us whether this is going to work or not.

[Fraser] Chairman 'Arafat, John Fraser from LBC Radio in London. I was wondering if I could ask you, sir, to clarify your answer to a question from my colleague, John Palmer, on whether or not you regard the European Community in its earlier years as a good model for regional cooperation. Do you think that you have lessons to learn and inspiration to draw from the way in which the former foes in Europe drew together, and that form of regional cooperation? And, secondly, am I correct in thinking, sir, you're not wearing your gun at the moment? Is that because you are trying to cultivate a more peaceful image?

['Arafat] You don't seem to be convinced with what happened in Washington. What will convince you, then, if the agreement of Washington was not enough for you? I cannot work miracles for you just for the sake of convincing. I regret your question. You must know, sir, what it means exactly, what we did in Washington. We have operated a real breakthrough on the way to peace, but some parties are still not satisfied. Some people ask for miracles, they are never happy with anything. They are never happy with anything. We want peace, we said, and we have to pay the price for peace, and we have paid the price for peace with the lives of our people. Today our representative in Lebanon, Zayd Wahbah was shot because, of course, he is for the peace process, and three other leaders, Palestinian leaders, were killed in Gaza. We are paying for this, we are paying for peace. It's not simply words. We are paying with our blood. My friend (Asad Sartawi), one of the Fatah leaders and one of the symbols of the PLO, died during my visit to Paris. He died in Gaza. We pay the price on both sides for—the price, of course, for the two kinds of extremism, whether Israeli or Palestinian. As to European cooperation and the European (?Community) is certainly one—a model that we aspire and look forward to being able to imitate.

[EL PEDARICO correspondent] I come from EL PEDARICO. I'd like to ask you a question, president. Are you still sticking to the date of 1 January for your return to Jericho? And then, President Delors, you talked about European cooperation. Now is this cooperation just going to be economic, material, technical? Have you made any more commitments? Have you decided to send experts to help the Palestinians set up a police force, for example. And I'd like a further answer on the Arab boycott question, a more detailed answer. From what you said, you seem to be suggesting that you would only lift the boycott when a final peace plan is signed, when a final peace agreement is signed. Is it possible, or is it going to be possible to lift the boycott during the peace process? Will that be possible, or are you going to wait until the final signing?

['Arafat] Could you repeat your first question, please?

[Correspondent] The date of your return to Jericho?

['Arafat] What is your question exactly, your question on Jericho?

[Correspondent] I just wanted to know whether you are sticking, you're going to stick to that date for your return, 1 January?

['Arafat] I do hope that this will take place either in January or February next.

[Unidentified voice] I have been told that Mr. 'Arafat must leave. Thank you.

'Arafat: Syrian Stance 'Intolerable Interference'

JN0911154193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In Brussels, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has openly attacked the Syrian position for the first time since the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles. Addressing the Belgian parliament's Foreign Relations' Committee, 'Arafat said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad neither supports nor opposes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement but at the same time leaves the door open to those who oppose the agreement and to extremist groups and hardline attitudes. 'Arafat considered that the Syrian position constitutes an intolerable interference in Palestinian affairs.

'Arafat Forms New Fatah Leadership in Gaza

TA0911142793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had recently ordered the establishment of a new Fatah leadership in the Gaza Strip under the name of the Fatah Supreme Authority. This new leadership is headed by Salim al-Zuray'i, who was recently released by the security authorities after spending 23 years in prison. Among the members of this new leadership, which includes 13 persons, are Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, Dhiyab al-Lawh, Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, and Dr. Firyal al-Banna. These sources said that the new leadership's aim is to organize Fatah's internal situation and participate in the Palestinian decisionmaking.

Fatah Steps Up Security After Assassination Bid

NC0911184693 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 9 (AFP)—The PLO's main guerrilla group Fatah stepped up security Tuesday [9 November] after gunmen tried to assassinate a close aide to PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, a Palestinian military official said.

Zayd Wahbah was shot and wounded Tuesday morning in this southern port city by four gunmen who opened fire on his car on a main road of Sidon and then fled, police said.

Wahbah, a senior official of Fatah, was hit in the neck and shoulder by four bullets, a spokesman for the Hammud Hospital here said. His life is not in danger.

Lieutenant Badih Sulayman Kurayyim, the Fatah commander in Lebanon, warned that more Fatah officials could be the target of assassination bids and said: "We will not allow these operations to continue."

He told AFP that the attack was carried out by "groups opposed to the Palestinian revolution" in a bid to undermine the Palestinian political situation. He did not elaborate.

Kurayyim said that Fatah military commanders in Lebanon met after the shooting and adopted a series of measures to bolster security.

Earlier a Fatah official, declining to be named, blamed the attack on "those who have been assassinating our supporters in the occupied territories," referring to attacks in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Since the signing of the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord on September 13, tension has been running high between Fatah members in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon, Lebanon's largest Palestinian camp.

But Tuesday's attack was the first assassination bid against a close supporter of 'Arafat.

The former Fatah military commander in Lebanon, Munir al-Maqdah, has rejected the deal and called for 'Arafat's resignation. He himself escaped an assassination attempt in Sidon on October 26.

Fatah sacked al-Maqdah and handed over his powers to a three-member command, led by Kurayyim, designated by the PLO in Tunis on October 27 in what was described as a compromise to safeguard its ranks in Lebanon.

'Abbas: No U.S. Link With Exposure of Mosad Agent

PM0911163093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

['Ali al-Salih report: "Abu-Mazin: United States Had No Link With Exposure of Palestinian Mosad Agent"]

[Text] London, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has denied that Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator of the bilateral peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, had any direct or indirect link with the exposure of 'Adnan Yasin, deputy ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunis, who is currently being interrogated by Palestinian security organs on charges of spying for the Israeli intelligence service Mosad.

Press reports quoted a Palestinian official as saying that Ross participated indirectly in the exposure of Yasin's case. According to the official, who asked to remain anonymous, Ross surprised Palestinian officials during his meeting with President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO leadership during his recent visit to Tunis by asking for the meeting to be stopped, and resumed in the U.S. Embassy in Tunis. 'Arafat rejected this request. Ross repeated his request during his meeting with Abu-Mazin, who also refused.

The official added that after that, Ross told the Palestinian leadership that he had requested that his meetings with both 'Arafat and Abu-Mazin be moved to the U.S. Embassy because he had discovered the existence of listening devices in the Palestinian offices where the two meetings were held, by means of a pen he was holding which is equipped with a device to detect these types of devices.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Abu-Mazin said that Ross did not make such a request during his meeting with him or with President 'Arafat, and that this report is absolutely baseless.

Abu-Mazin confirmed what he had told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, namely that "it was the Tunisian security organ which informed me first of the Yasin issue."

Meanwhile, Palestinian security organs are still interrogating Yasin to determine whether he was working alone, as he claims, or if there was a network of collaborators working with him.

A Palestinian security official said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Yasin is still adhering to his story and confessions to Tunisian security organs, namely that he was recruited when he was in France in 1991 accompanying his wife, who was receiving medical treatment, and that there is no network working with him. The official described the interrogation of Yasin as proceeding quietly.

Asked about the arrest of Mahmud Sadiq, the employee who operates radio equipment belonging to 'Arafat, the official confirmed Sadiq's arrest, pointing out that his arrest has nothing to do with the Yasin case; it is attributable to reasons which he described as "ethical." He added that "Sadiq's arrest for ethical reasons is linked with the Yasin case because they happened to coincide." Jibril Rajub, adviser to 'Arafat, categorically denied a link, stressing that Sadiq is currently in Algiers and moving freely.

Last Thursday Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian ambassador to Tunis and official in charge of security in the PLO,

officially confirmed Yasin's arrest "because of his collaboration with hostile organs," playing down his status and denying any responsibility.

However, the Palestinian News Agency refrained from publishing Bal'awi's statement on orders from the PLO leadership, which thereby—so it seems—expressed its disapproval of Bal'awi's emphasis on the insignificance of the Yasin case.

It seems that Palestinian circles, which are still in shock over Yasin's implication in an espionage case, fears that this case might expand and that its political complications could increase at the PLO leadership level.

Central Committee Statement Faults PLO Leadership

TA0911185393 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 2

[By Yahya Abu-Sharif]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—The Palestinian People's Party Central Committee has called for the formation of a democratic national conference. The committee is also demanding from the PLO Executive Committee Chairman an improvement in the "negotiating performance and respect for democratic rules and the role of PLO institutions."

This came in a critique—the harshest of its kind—issued at a meeting of the Central Committee against the PLO leadership for its approach in dealing with the Palestinian-Israeli talks on implementing the Declaration of Principles accord.

The Central Committee described this approach as "contravening the most elementary conditions and fundamentals for promoting the negotiating process and directing it toward its goals through practical implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, adherence to everything that serves this implementation, and rejection of everything that contradicts it." [passage omitted]

World Bank Official Assesses Palestinian Aid Plans

BR0911140993 Brussels LE SOIR in French 5 Nov 93 p 2

[Interview with Caio Koch-Weser, World Bank vice president responsible for Middle East and North Africa, by Nathalie Mattheiem, in Washington; date not given: "On the Structure of International Aid Necessary To Start Up the Palestinian Economy"]

[Text] [Mattheiem] You are calling for the creation of a transparent, light, and reliable structure on the ground to satisfy donors and ensure the rapid launch of activities leading to concrete results for the population. The peace conference was held a little over a month ago: What progress can the World Bank report at this stage?

[Koch-Weser] We have an important technical mission on the ground, which is working with the Palestinians and the Israelis on a huge emergency program, which is to be presented to donors, to put economic and social structures into place. One or two of these projects are successful enough for a World Bank loan and the joint financing of others.

We also established a fiduciary fund on 19 October: The contributions, which have nearly reached the target of $35 million, are made up of new money. This flexible instrument will be used at first for feasibility studies and constructing institutions. And this month we will send a second mission which will look at macroeconomic problems: taxation, foreign trade, monetary mechanisms, etc.

[Mattheiem] Is the World Bank already loaning money?

[Koch-Weser] We are hoping to make progress on the urgent projects from early 1994 onward; we have created a second fund of $50 million, specifically focusing on Gaza, where we will offer loans under favorable conditions. A number of legal questions will have to be resolved to allow the bank, as such, to provide these loans, since they will not be granted to a country in the proper sense of the word.

[Mattheiem] And then there is the delicate question of coordination.

[Koch-Weser] We have been asked to adopt the role of "secretariat" of an ad hoc liaison committee which will meet in our Paris headquarters this Friday [5 November]. We have followed up the promises, which added up to nearly $2.0 billion. It was necessary to clarify what was new and what was reaffirming past commitments; we also had to establish aid terms and rules, year by year, to present a detailed statement of the amounts promised.

We have also instituted information mechanisms for donors and created a team for these duties, with very strong support from the European Community. It will be very important, today in Paris, to determine the various functions of the ad hoc committee, the secretariat, and the consultative groups, in so far as the small donors are not represented in the ad hoc committee but are represented within the secretariat.

We must not create a cumbersome structure, but on the contrary guarantee efficient working; it seems to me extremely important that the ad hoc committee, which is made up of top representatives, should offer the political framework and orientations, but leave the daily management and project follow-up to the secretariat. We are working in close collaboration with the donors, and in particular with the main donor, the EC.

[Mattheiem] Will the World Bank channel all the aid?

[Koch-Weser] Each donor country has its own procedure; there is no question of centralizing all the funding in one common fund, but rather of setting priorities. It is essential that aid can be provided independently, and that it follows standardized procedures, otherwise we will risk overburdening the capacity in the field.

[Mattheiem] One of the donors' preoccupations concerns the Palestinians: Are they ready?

[Koch-Weser] Our first concern is indeed the implementation and "absorption" capacity in the field. The Palestinians have to progress very quickly; I held talks with Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis recently on this question. They proposed a Palestinian Economic Development Regional Authority (PEDRA). We made some suggestions: PEDRA must be politically independent and consist of highly competent Palestinians, of which there is no shortage. And it must be active on the ground quickly.

In particular it will have to give an assurance that the funds will be allocated to the beneficiaries in a transparent way. It is necessary to not be too ambitious at first; it is necessary to start small with an interim organization, which can transform itself in the medium term into a real element of local government. Implementation on the ground is the urgent thing.

[Mattheiem] What role do you see for the private sector, where the initial surge of enthusiasm seems to have quickly calmed down?

[Koch-Weser] It certainly has a role, e.g., in housing. It is not necessary to start up a huge program of public building, but rather the private sector must be stimulated. It is essential to avoid any future dependence on aid. It must serve to launch the process, which must be dominated by the private sector. And there is no reason to anticipate that it will be otherwise, with all the available talent and resources of a prosperous Palestinian community. If the choices are clearly stated from the start, we should see an open market economy, in which they are gradually able to do without aid. Right from the start it should have a capital influx of $200-250 million per year.

Settler 'Violence and Terrorism' Assailed

JN0911173893 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] The growing conflict, which is taking place between our steadfast Palestinian masses and the herds of the Zionist settlers in our occupied Palestinian land, and the resulting terrorist Zionist operations against our kinsfolk and their property, reveals clearly the panic that is gripping the die-hard Zionist settlers as a result of the practical steps being taken toward a future peace.

The acts of violence and terrorism by the Zionist settlers against our steadfast kinsfolk in the occupied territories clearly expose the grave crisis facing the enemies of peace and freedom, the foremost of whom are the herds of the Zionist settlers, who view the Oslo agreement as a beginning of the end of all their expansionist and settlement designs on the land of our country, Palestine.

Yes, it is their crisis that is growing larger and larger. This is the conflict of survival, which will terminate all the illusions of aggression once and for all. Look! The masses of our heroic people are confronting forcefully the settlers' terrorist operations, stressing that they will continue their national struggle to regain all their legitimate national rights. At the same time, they show full understanding of the contents of the Oslo agreement, which is a first step toward building an independent Palestinian state.

These confrontations and terrorist operations carried out by the herds of settlers clearly reveal the fact that the occupation authorities are keeping silent over these operations in order to pressure the Palestinian negotiators and to disavow the implementation of the declaration of principles agreement in a proper manner. This proves that the Declaration of Principles is actually a first step toward building an independent state and not just establishing a limited self-rule. The latter idea will be doomed to failure and the occupier will have no choice but to withdraw from our country and establish peace. Otherwise, the conflict will further increase until the Palestinian dawn of freedom and victory emerges.

DFLP's Hawatimah Discusses Gaza-Jericho Agreement

NC0911185293 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 4 Nov 93 p 3

["First part" of a report on an interview with Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP secretary general, by Muwaffaq Madani; place and date not given]

[Text] Have you been surprised by the Gaza-Jericho agreement? As the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] secretary general, how do you view this agreement?

Hawatimah answered: The agreement came as a surprise to all the Palestinian people—the PLO and even the PLO Central Committee included—as well as the Arab cordon states. The nature of the agreement and the staggering number of concessions it contained came as a surprise to all.

We in the DFLP have always been aware of the existence of various secret channels, a fact to which we made repeated public references. But we had no detailed information as to what was taking place in the secret channels, which were always the main channels in the talks.

Secret channels for talks evolved in Tunis and Washington. Foreign Ministry departments in Cairo, Sweden, Norway, and other countries got involved. The reason for this development was that the four tracks of the peace talks—which started in Madrid and continued in Washington—were faltering. This how the parallel channels for negotiations came into being.

This development took place on the Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese fronts, but in different ways. This explains the repeated visits to the region by the U.S.

secretary of state and other senior U.S. officials ahead of every round of bilateral talks.

The four various tracks differed in the type of problems they faced.

Concerning the Palestinian-Israeli front, it is known that we in the DFLP announced on the eve of the Madrid conference that we support a comprehensive and even-handed peace in the Middle East, one that is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of exchanging land for peace, Resolution 194 concerning the right of return, and UN Security Council Resolution 237 concerning the right of those who left their land during the 1967 war to return without conditions or restrictions. We called for the negotiations to take place in one session. As for the implementation, timetables can be drawn for that purpose.

We insist on the implementation of the resolutions passed by the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council on the eve of Madrid conference, as well as those passed by the United Nations.

'Arafat, however, submitted to the conditions of [former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Shamir and the United States. This is why, since the beginning, the Palestinian-Israeli track has been shackled with restrictions totally different from the formula and principles under which Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon went to the negotiations.

'Arafat agreed to send to Madrid a delegation of West Bank and Gaza Strip luminaries, thus relinquishing the right of the Palestinian people for a unified delegation from inside and outside the territories, including Jerusalem, as stated in the resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council. He agreed to participate in the peace process under the conditions imposed by Shamir and the United States.

Therefore, since the very first moment, the U.S. letter of invitation represented the ceiling for the talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track. This letter proposes five years of administrative self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Three years after the beginning of the administrative self-rule, negotiations on the final solution would begin, on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. The negotiations seek to implement these two resolutions.

This differs concretely from the basis on which Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan went to the negotiations. They went with complete delegations representing these countries. They went to negotiate on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, land for peace, and Resolution 425 which pertains to Lebanon.

For this reason, there was a split among the Palestinian people over the negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track. There was also a split from the beginning in the PLO. The differences widened. Then it became clear that the majority of the people and the factions, including the Fatah Movement, in which there was also a split, and the majority of the PLO institutions are against the Madrid-Washington terms. This has forced the party that went to the negotiations (the 'Arafat party) to admit at the Central Council meetings and even in public statements that the Madrid terms were unfair and even humiliating to the Palestinian side.

Consequently, problems began to crop up on the Palestinian-Israeli track. During months of negotiations, the U.S. Administration and Israel insisted on concluding a deal with the West Bank and Gaza team according to the Madrid formula and the letters of invitation to the Madrid Conference. They insisted on side-stepping and disregarding the PLO, because the negotiations were taking place to achieve autonomy for the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and was no solution to some four million refugees who left their country in 1948 and now live in the diaspora. This is because UN Resolution 237 regarding the refugees and Resolution 194 are not considered in these negotiations. A multilateral committee was tasked with discussing the refugee issue and its social and humanitarian ramifications without any reference to Resolutions 194 or 237.

Problems on the Palestinian-Israeli track began emerging in Washington. During the four rounds that took place under the Shamir government, much maneuvering was done to limit the autonomy to the people and to transfer the Israeli military administration's authorities in the fields of health, education, administration, and police to the Palestinians. In other words, as the Palestinian negotiating team put it, to transfer to the Palestinians the responsibility for sewage affairs, fighting mosquitoes and insects, and police affairs—nothing else. When Rabin came to power, he presented his autonomy plan in the sixth round. The plan limited the autonomy's geographical jurisdiction to four areas without any geographical link between them. These are Gaza, Hebron, Ramallah-Jericho, and Nabulus-Tul Karm-Janin. The plan did not propose any geographical link between these areas. The settlements and the military zones will constitute the human and military belts around each of these four areas.

From this point on, the conflict, which started in the sixth round and continued until the 11th round, was over two major issues in the Madrid and Washington negotiations. The first issue was the powers of autonomy, whether these are legislative and executive powers, or merely executive.

The draft project submitted by the Palestinian negotiating team consisted of giving the Palestinians legislative and executive powers. Two bodies would be established in the occupied territories, not only one body. One would be legislative and elected. From it would stem an executive body having the same powers granted the legislative body. The powers of the legislative body would not only fall within the limits stipulated in the draft project for self-rule submitted by Rabin's government, and before it Shamir's government, but would also have legislative, political, security, executive, and sovereign powers on the Palestinian territories.

The second issue is that the territorial jurisdiction of autonomy should include the whole West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Jerusalem. There should be geographic integration between them.

From this point on, the negotiations in Madrid led by Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and his team began to experience crises and difficulties with a majority of the team supporting these ideas. Then they reached a dead end at the end of the eighth round of talks. All 'Arafat's attempts from Tunis failed to put pressure on the majority of Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi's team to respond and make some stipulated and required concessions in accordance with the administrative self-rule project for the residents [of the West Bank] submitted by the Israeli Government and supported by the United States. Some spoken ideas on this project were presented by the United States to be mulled over until the eighth round. Then, the U.S. Administration submitted its written ideas under the title of "Coordination Between the Israeli and Palestinian Projects," when in actual fact it was totally biased toward the Israeli project. This is why the project was rejected by the majority of the Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi-led negotiating team and the majority within the PLO Executive Committee, including the majority of the factions: the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestinian, the Arab Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front. There was also a split within Fatah inside the Executive Committee.

In view of this whole situation, it was apparent that 'Arafat began to represent a minority among the Palestinian people, in the PLO coalition, in the divided Fatah, and in PLO institutions, including the Executive Committee.

Therefore, the United States and Israel began to realize that the negotiations with 'Abd-al-Shafi's [head of the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks] team were coming under pressure from the Palestinian people and national opposition. The Palestinian people and national opposition exposed everything going on in Washington. This created an opposition front among the people, first inside the occupied territories and then in the diaspora which caused the collapsing situation to spread into 'Arafat's front.

This was evident in 'Abd-al-Shafi's call during the eighth round to suspend the bilateral talks and boycott the multilateral ones, his threat more than once to resign, the resignation of the Palestine National Council speaker, and the start of the Executive Committee members' resignations.

Against this background, Israel realized that its bet on negotiations with West Bank and Gaza personalities was being lost and was turning into a failure. Why? Because these personalities were under the daily pressure of the nationalist sentiments of the people in cities, towns, villages, and camps inside the occupied territories and under mounting pressure from the major national opposition. Moreover, the negotiating team, representing the minority, in Tunis was divided on itself and the majority rejected the continued pressure on Tunis to accept the terms of the Rabin-U.S. Administration plan that was forwarded at the beginning of the ninth round.

'Arafat, Israel, the U.S. Administration, and the Egyptian Government realized that the negotiations in Washington according to the U.S. invitation and in light of pressure coming from the people and the major national opposition and the division within the negotiating team could not be relied upon and could not continue. Thus, direct contact began with 'Arafat through secret channels.

When it became clear that 'Arafat was prepared to respond to what Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi had rejected since the third round, during Shamir's time in office, 'Arafat and his team were approached with the Gaza First proposal and with readiness to apply it to Jericho, which was rejected in the third round. In Tunis, however, they found that 'Arafat was willing to negotiate the Gaza-Jericho deal.

Thus, Rabin and his government found out that he would have to deal with 'Arafat despite a previous stand to the contrary over 22 months and that 'Arafat, as the Americans found out, was prepared along with his team members in Tunis—Abu-Mazin, Nabil Sha'th, and the rest of the group—for such dealing.

So the clandestine negotiations began to intensify in Cairo and then moved to Oslo at the end of the eighth round in November 1992. The negotiations began to address the Gaza-Jericho issue in March 1993 and were kept secret from the Palestinian people and the PLO coalition and even from the larger part of the negotiating team. Only three of the delegation members, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Faysal al-Husayni, and 'Urayqat, knew about them because these three are members of Fatah's Central Council and are under the council's authority, particularly under 'Arafat himself.

PFLP's Habash Views Gaza-Jericho Agreement

NC0911115093 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 3 Nov 93 p 3

[Report on an interview with Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, PFLP, in "one of his offices" in Damascus by Muwaffaq Madani; date not given]

[Text] I waited days to meet Dr. George Habash while he recovered from another health problem. On the way to one of his offices in the Syrian capital Damascus his aide briefed me on his health. His body, which failed him in the prime of his struggle as PFLP secretary general, survives because of his morale, which draws on his firm belief in the Palestinian and Arab people's cause, in which he has been one of the most prominent strugglers in the modern Arab age.

As I expected, "the doctor" maintained his famous determination and faith in triumph as he reminded me

during the interview that this stage of Arab and Palestinian disintegration is a passing one that cannot last.

Habash is preoccupied with developing Palestinian alliances of the PFLP, its colleague the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, the Hamas Movement, and the 10 Palestinian factions.

The goal of this front is not to substitute the PLO, but to legitimize its charter again and rejuvenate its democracy and mechanism under harsh and complicated conditions and against a vague fate. The PFLP secretary general is not concerned with setting up an alternative PLO. His goal is to lead a political and democratic reform process and straighten alliances within the Palestinian people's institutions. He justifies this task by affirming that the Gaza-Jericho agreement will not survive two years, when enthusiasts will discover that it was as good as nonexistent.

He told me that 4 million Palestinians are outside the agreement and asked: How then can it survive?

The "doctor" said to me: "I will not return to Yasir 'Arafat." He also revealed that 'Arafat sent him a Palestinian personality a few days before the agreement was signed, who pleaded with him to meet him so that he could tell him about something very important.

The "doctor" said: I was not in on the details of the Oslo agreement, but I smelled it. When he invited me to meet him, I said to myself that he probably wanted to cover up for what he was going to do. So I refused to meet him.

But there is talk in Palestinian circles in Damascus that contacts have not ceased between "the doctor" and the Palestinian president and that an envoy is in charge of this.

But the "doctor" categorically denied making any contact with 'Arafat after the Gaza-Jericho agreement. He said he would not go back to his alliance with the Palestinian president.

Reacting to those who blame him for providing political cover for 'Arafat permanently, Dr. Habash said: I am facing the same blame within the PFLP. But we have always submitted to particular considerations; our masses' insist that the Palestinian factions should comply with the requirements of national unity in their practices. People in the territories see nothing in our political practice, but the national unity it signifies. That is why we were tolerant in some instances until they blamed us.

The "doctor" added: At the third round of negotiations and during James Baker's tour, we were offered something much more than the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. I used to say: Let him use tactics; he will eventually arrive at the issue of Jerusalem and fail to emerge with an agreement on it. That is why I do not believe what happened; I did not expect it. I do not know what forced us to make that kind of concession. I believe that those who wager on the agreement's success will discover within two years that it is nothing.

Habash said he does not expect an Arab front to emerge and resist the settlement. Some friends in the United States and others are simply asking me to arrange a Syrian-Iraqi meeting, he said. This embarrasses me, because some considerations make me unable to respond to their wishes.

Let us put that aside. I have reason to believe that some Arab states will neither accept nor surrender to this settlement. The alternative we offer is insistence on the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is the ceiling Arabs and Palestinians accepted for engaging in the settlement. What is going on is way below that ceiling. We insist on the ceiling of negotiations, namely, the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Habash added: We have the weapons to confront this. These weapons are the power of the masses and the fairness of our rights. That is why I am telling Clinton that we will triumph over him.

Giving an example, Habash said Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid forced the United States to reconsider its stance on Somalia. You in Lebanon—despite the Chamber of Deputies' and international approval—canceled the 17 May 1983 accord [between Lebanon and Israel].

The doctor told me he was not prepared to abandon his faith in Arab nationalism and the masses' strength. He said: This is why I will stir 1 billion Muslims to stand behind Arab and Palestinian rights.

He rested half of his body and moved the other half, using his hands and occasionally smiling and frowning to express the feeling of every Palestinian and Arab facing an uncertain future.

Within this context, I asked Dr. Habash: What is the impact of the Gaza-Jericho agreement on the Arab and Palestinian situations? He said: The PFLP knew the course pursued by the PLO, but to be clear and frank, I did not expect the PLO leadership to stoop so low. Naturally, I know of the international and Arab situation that led the PLO leadership to accept the U.S. plan. But the PLO leadership could have used some basic weapons to confront the U.S.- Zionist plan. The most important of these weapons is international legitimacy. The United States destroyed an entire country—Iraq—on the basis of international law. The United States focused on international legitimacy.

So why didn't the PLO leadership use this weapon? When James Baker came to Jerusalem, I was in Tunis. Cables went from Faysal al-Husayni to Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The PLO leadership was asked to express its view on the U.S. plan submitted to al-Husayni because Baker was not prepared to deal with the PLO. The answer we agreed upon with 'Arafat was that Faysal al-Husayni should tell Baker: We want a solution of our issue on the basis of UN resolutions. You [the United States] raised this slogan. So we want the solution to be based on international legitimacy.

Deviation from international legitimacy began at the Madrid conference. It wanted a Palestinian solution based on the U.S. plan, not on the implementation of UN resolutions and an international conference.

We felt the deviation had begun. We adopted a stance on this deviation by withdrawing from the PLO Executive Committee. But we did not expect this complete surrender. I want to distinguish between the UN resolutions and the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

International legitimacy, naturally, does not give us our full rights in Palestine; I consider Palestine my homeland just as Lebanon is yours. International legitimacy at least gives us the right to self-determination, a Palestinian state, and the right of return. It also stresses the need for complete withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. There is a resolution calling for dismantling settlements. The Gaza-Jericho agreement does not refer to all these issues. The Palestinian revolution was staged to liberate all Palestinian land. When issues got complicated on the international level, the PLO leadership adopted a political program, which says: We do not concentrate on the subject of the covenant, but on the political program of return, state, and self-determination. This is acceptable by the international community.

But for things to reach—please note—the level of truncated self-rule (laughter), well, this was not on anyone's mind. By God, I must admit that when we met at the political bureau to discuss the political situation, there were pessimistic comrades who expected the Gaza-Jericho agreement. They were pessimistic about this course and about Abu'-Ammar's course and the level it could reach.

I used to ask colleagues: On what basis did we back 'Arafat to become head of state? It was on the assumption that something would prevent him from stooping so low. I did not expect 'Arafat to become—what can I say—chief of a "municipality." We say it is his right to use tactics, but provided he has a ceiling, namely, the international resolutions.

As for the repercussions of this agreement and our handling of it, we believe that the Arab-Israeli conflict and Fatah are now going through an entirely new stage in the full sense of the word. Our first duty is to define the nature of this stage, because it differs completely from 1936, 1948, 1967, 1973, 1982, and the intifadah era. We are now engaged in the sixth confrontation against this Zionist cancer. Our fist duty now is to define the nature of this stage, which differs completely from the previous stages. On the international level, the Palestinian revolution—we believe the Palestinian revolution is not over—now has no official international fate. Previously, the then Soviet Union, Socialist system, nonaligned countries, and China provided great backing for the PLO. Now, on the official international level—we believe the people are a different matter—we have no clear-cut fate, but will create one when we will discuss the confrontation.

As for the official Arab level, we say there is an official Arab collapse, with the exception of four Arab states that are still standing fast in the face of the new world order, namely, Syria, Libya, Sudan, and Iraq. Apart from these states, there is total collapse on the official level. The official Palestinian level is a disaster, because, despite these difficult Arab and international conditions, I thought we could still rely on four weapons. I mentioned one of these weapons—international legality. Another weapon is the intifadah, which is still in progress. There is also Arab coordination and solidarity among the cordon states. Why should we lose it? There is also Syria. Why should we lose it? The Palestinian masses could prove to be a major force if their leaders opt not to surrender. Let us take the Algerian masses for instance. They triumphed over France, which relied on NATO. The Palestinian leadership has lost the basic components that could confront and triumph over the Zionist-colonialist scheme. These basic components, as represented by reliance on the people and will, have collapsed and been lost. Perhaps, when you write in your newspaper that the doctor is still discussing the people and their will, some people will smile. I disagree. I will tell you why. There are examples we could advance, which indicate that determination, will, and reliance on the people and on justice are weapons that have led to victories in various cases. For instance, the shah of Iran had a tremendously strong intelligence service. I cannot remember how many people worked in this apparatus, but there were many. Despite this, Khomeyni came and presented a just cause, used slogans, and mobilized the masses. Castro relied on will. These are just examples. If you ask me about the way to handle the issue, I will say that first, we have a just cause. Is this agreement just or unjust? It is unjust. Thus, I will rely on justice, will, and the masses. If you ask me what is meant by the masses, I will tell you I do not mean the Palestinian masses only. This is because world imperialism, which relies on the new Zionist strategy as represented by Peres' new Middle East plan, poses a threat to the Palestinian, Lebanese, Jordanian, Syria, Arab, Middle Eastern, Islamic, and world masses. We are faced with a major operation. You could say that the masses are challenging Clinton and will triumph over him. We are waging a 100-percent victorious battle. Why? Because it relies on justice, international legality, and the masses.

PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash said: My long experience has taught me not to generalize when I discuss the masses. If I was asked how to confront imperialist schemes in the fifties, I would have said we could depend on the masses. That's it.

He added: Experience taught me to stand by the people. We must be accurate, because a section of our people supports the agreement. I must recognize this and assess

it. A section of the people is awaiting the results, while another section rejects the agreement. But the rejectionists live in contradictions.

Habash added: Your question implicitly asks where we stand on this issue. We are facing this picture. We ask, we find, that those who support the agreement will, in one or two years, discover the aberrations that Abu-'Ammar and the official Palestinian media and the Western official media are promoting to add temptation to this picture. I am depending on the process of change that will occur wholly on a scientific basis.

Asking him why, he replied: Because our Palestinian masses will stand before the settlements and see that these settlements still exist; they will pause before the issue of Jerusalem and see that it is outside the realm of discussion; they will pause before the issue of the return; and so on. They will find that this agreement does not realize the minimum acceptable hopes and goals and that it is not worth the sacrifices the best of our youth have made. So the masses will revolt and join the powers that reject this issue.

The same thing applies to the powers that have not made up their minds. We can discuss the issue of the entire Palestinian people in two years.

Habash added: I am preoccupied with the contradictions with which the followers of that camp live. I know that the alliance that rejects the agreement is made up of three powers: the Islamic powers, the [Palestinian National] Salvation Front, and the democratic powers represented in the PFLP, the DFLP, the [Arab] Liberation Front, and the [Popular] Struggle Front. I know the contradictions with which these powers live. I know they have common denominators. Experience has taught us, and the PFLP in particular believes it is responsible for treating these contradictions soundly to prevent them from exploding.

Some people wager on infighting. The Arab press focuses primarily on the possibilities of infighting and contradictions among the rejectionists and on our wager on Syria.

We gain a lot when we know what preoccupies them. I believe things will proceed along the path that leads the Palestinian people to stand as one bloc in the face of that agreement to abolish it on the basis of the PLO program, the program of the state, the return, and self-determination.

Despite this international and official Arab attack and others, I hope you will realize how concerned Clinton and Peres are about these steps by the rejecting powers.

Clinton is holding telephone contacts with some states, let us call them Arab, to stress that these rejecting powers must be erased.

An English reporter wrote that Clinton said: These powers must be silenced. Reacting to this, Habash said: This is true and I know who went [sentence incomplete as published].

Rabin says the intifadah has faltered and that only 50 percent of it remains. Despite all the pressure, he admits there is 50 percent. Of course, he forgets explosive devices and suicide operations, Habash remarked.

Habash said: We must perceive our Palestinian issue now through the U.S. strategy, the changes in it, and the impact of these changes on the world's and the new Zionist strategy. We must confront the Zionist strategy with a Palestinian and Arab strategy.

The big event was the collapse of the Soviet Union. This made the United States the sole superpower and the leader of the new world order. U.S. economic weakness prevents the United States from imposing its full control on the world. The United States won its battle against the Soviet Union by concentrating on the arms race. Reagan dreamed of Star Wars. This issue annoyed the Soviet Union, which tried to compete with the United States in this sphere, weakening the Soviet economy. The Soviet Union collapsed and the United States became weaker, but did not collapse.

If the United States wants to become the sole world leader, it must win the economic battle against Europe and Japan. By the way, Japan greatly annoys the United States. So does Europe. How will the United States win the battle?

We know that every attempt to find alternative sources of energy is either costly or has failed. So, the United States wants to control the oil region. Japan has not a drop of oil of its own. Europe has about 17 percent of the world's oil. This is not enough. The United States wants to control oil by itself.

He was asked whether Israel's role was abolished with the direct U.S. presence in the region. He said: I want to refer to this subject. The Zionist movement is smart. During World War I, the Zionist movement depended on Britain. The slogan of the Zionist Congress held in 1897 was "From the Nile to the Euphrates." So, the Zionist movement depended on its alliance with Britain.

Now, Zionism's basic alliance is with the United States. In light of this alliance, the Zionist movement adopted a new course, which says the subject of the land is not important. Economic wealth is more important. Accordingly, it is not necessary to control the land; economic control is more important.

We must watch the ambitions that Israel expresses over the economic issues of water and oil. By God, Israel will eventually say it wants to share Saudi Arabia's oil.

There is a need for a Palestinian and Arab strategy. The Palestinian revolution that wanted to gather the Arab nation under the slogans of unity and pan-Arab hopes has become the capitulationist revolution. It has become a basis for implementing the U.S.-Zionist plan. But the Arab people will not accept this.

We feel our great responsibility over this. The PFLP believes its Palestinian role is not confined to Palestinian

affairs. It links the Palestinian struggle with the pan-Arab struggle. We have not abandoned Arab unity, liberation, or civilization.

I asked him: Did you divorce the PLO and Abu-'Ammar? He said: He ['Arafat] divorced the PLO. He violated the covenant and the program. He moved outside the PLO.

Will you establish an alternative PLO? He answered: We want to rebuild the PLO on new bases.

How? We depend on our people. We realize the official world and the official Arab states recognize us. What interests us is our people's recognition of us.

Habash continued: The PLO has not ended in form. It is essential to rebuild the PLO. We have a plan to do that. We are committed to basing the plan now or perhaps during the next year or two on our people's confidence. When this plan gains our people and masses' confidence, I can stress that we will also gain the support of the national liberation movements and of the Arab regimes.

[Madani] But 'Arafat's organization enjoys sweeping international support.

[Habash] Our people no longer recognize it. Although the PLO is temporarily recognized, I still believe that when our people discover that the PLO leadership cannot achieve their objectives, they will say that Abu-'Ammar no longer represents the hopes of the Palestinian people. Consequently, the people will rise up and join the original PLO.

Dr. Habash was asked what his stance would be if the Arab countries complete the negotiations and conclude similar agreements. He said: Naturally, I do not agree that all the Arab countries will totally collapse because of the Zionist and imperialist scheme. I have said Libya will not submit. Sudan, Iraq, and Syria won't either.

[Madani] Suppose things go in that direction?

[Habash] Under the circumstances, I will say that we rely on our masses, which are not the Palestinian masses alone, but the entire Arab masses, when they realize the danger of the new imperialist-Zionist scheme. Even the Christian and Maronite masses in Lebanon will realize that this new world scheme that is linked with the Zionist plan will affect their interests. There are also the issues of water, land, and normalization [of relations].

I know there is a growing industry in Lebanon. Israel now has covetous plans when it comes to economy. The Jordanians have started to realize the danger of the Zionist scheme. I believe the Lebanese and others will do so later.

We have failed to confront the Zionist scheme, although we staged six confrontations, resulting in the creation of the Gaza-Jericho plan. I am preparing for a seventh confrontation. But I will not allow myself to prepare young people for a seventh war. I will do that only if two things are made available to me: First, I must study and deduce the lessons of all the other confrontations that failed. Second, I must have a clear vision of the future.

Deriving the lessons of the previous stages is a long process. I would like to discuss the new confrontation and the way I see it. It will keep the fine weapons won in the previous confrontations. For example, it is important to rely on the masses' support. We also have the intifadah. The armed struggle is important, too. It will also be important not to get involved in secondary conflicts. The inter-Palestinian fighting of 1936 must not be repeated. But after registering these new weapons gained from the previous confrontations, we must define the new weapons, primarily mobilizing 1 billion Muslims against the Zionist danger. This is a primary issue for me in the next stage.

And democracy is a basic issue for the coming stage. No regime liberated from Zionism should make the same mistake as 'Abd-al-Nasir or Saddam.

[Madani] Do you expect to see an Arab front consisting of the states opposing the agreement?

[Habash] No. The plan is led by imperialism. Imperialism and Zionism do not even want the Arab League. They do not want an Arab identity. They always refer to the Middle East issue.

Algeria

Minister's Resignation Described as 'Protest'

PM0911145693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Qasiyy Salih al-Darwish report: "Algerian Information Minister Resigns in Protest at His Ministry Being Ignored"]

[Excerpt] Paris—An official statement issued in Algiers yesterday afternoon said that Prime Minister Redha Malek had accepted the resignation of Information [as published; records give post as Culture and Communications] Minister Mohamed Merzoug, attributing the resignation to health reasons.

The statement added that the Higher State Council would appoint a new information minister in the next few hours.

However, well-informed Algerian sources have emphasized to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the resigning information minister is in good health and that he resigned and shut himself in his house several days ago in protest at the way in which the Algerian press and the Information Ministry are dealt with vis-a-vis two sensitive issues which have occupied the forefront of events over the past two weeks.

The first issue concerns the national dialogue or the political dialogue being prepared for by the national committee assigned to this task. This committee, like the regime's other establishments concerned in the matter, tends to hand official statements to the Algerian press without involving the journalists, and especially without involving the Information Ministry in handling the issue in terms of information.

The committee held a meeting to which all Algerian journalists were invited. The information minister was not invited or consulted over that, or even informed of it.

As for the other issue which angered the information minister and led him to resign, it was the way in which the question of the three French hostages was handled at the informational level by the government, competent military security authorities, and the Interior and Defense Ministries, as the Information Minister was excluded completely from supervising the information situation. Algerian journalists were also excluded, while the door was opened wide to foreign journalists, in particular the French. [passage omitted]

Economic, Financial Situation 'Very Serious'

LD0911133493 Rabat MAP in English 1302 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov.9 (MAP)—The economic and financial situation in Algeria is very serious due to the foreign debt and the dwindling prices of hydrocarbons, said Algerian Economy Minister Mourad Benachnou. In an interview on Saturday with Algerian 'ALGER REPUBLICAIN' daily, Benachnou said this situation needs to be adjusted through adoption of measures which would enable the economy of the country to recover and move to the free market system.

The measures to be adopted would not impact negatively on the poor layers of society, the Algerian official said noting that market economy cannot be properly implemented if it entails social convulsions and brings about injustice.

Egypt

Gunmen Kill Policeman in Asyut; Probe Launched

NC1011113193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—Police warrant officer Sayyid Ahmad Hindawi was assassinated by unknown gunmen while on his way to work in Asyut's Abu Tij District today.

An Interior Ministry security source stated that senior Asyut Security Department officers, detectives from other police agencies, and forensic experts left immediately for the site of the attack, which had already been cordoned off while policemen searched the area for the culprits who escaped immediately after the shooting. The Prosecutor's Office has been informed to begin an investigation.

Al-Baz Returns From Syria With al-Asad Response

NC0911134693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, returned to Cairo this afternoon from Damascus following a one-day visit to Syria, during which he delivered a message from President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

On his return, al-Baz said he is carrying a reply from President al-Asad to President Mubarak on efforts to advance the peace process in the area.

Mubarak Phones UAE President Al Nuhayyan

NC0911205393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made a telephone call to United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan this evening. The two leaders reviewed Arab developments and relations between the two countries.

Surur Reelected Assembly Speaker; 2 Deputies Elected

NC0911123893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur was reelected People's Assembly speaker today. He won 439 votes during the Assembly meeting today at the beginning of the new parliamentary session.

Some 442 members voted. There were 439 valid votes. Three votes were void.

The Assembly elected Ahmad Hammadi deputy speaker representing professionals with 268 votes. Al-Sayyid Rashid was elected deputy speaker representing workers with 267 votes.

Of the 379 votes cast in the election for the two deputies, 368 votes were valid and 11 void.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Secretary on Coup 'Rumors'

BR0911163893 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 9 Nov 93 p 12

[Interview with 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, by Renato Pera in Tripoli on 8 November: "Libya Does Not Fear Sanctions"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Muntasir] No, the oil component issue is not such a problem that we are losing any sleep over it. We have enough to make us self-sufficient for years.

[Pera] That obviously means that, planning ahead for the lean times to come, Libya has been stocking up with these components on the international markets over the past few months.

[Al-Muntasir] Where our assets abroad are concerned, well that is more serious. But the UN draft resolution that is about to be approved does not specify how this new embargo is to be implemented. So we are relying on the flexibility of a few friendly countries, including Italy, naturally. I was in Rome last month to address that very issue. Italy depends on Libya for 30 percent of its oil needs, so we are looking forward to a "soft" attitude on its part. I must say that your country, along with Spain and Germany, is the one which has sought the most to intercede on our behalf with the United States and Britain, and I openly acknowledged that fact during my meetings at the Farnesina [Foreign Ministry], although sometimes your ambassador in Tripoli seems more British than Italian to me.

[Pera] Do you have any retaliation measures in mind, to implement after the new sanctions have been approved?

[Al-Muntasir] Absolutely not, because the consequences of these sanctions will not affect only us but also those countries which have trade relations with Libya. The United States and Britain are irritated because they cannot bring themselves to admit that a small country like ours can say "no" to two giants like them.

[Pera] Do you expect, in turn, that there will be some show of strength by the United States, like the bomb attack on Tripoli and Benghazi in 1986, if these new sanctions have no effect?

[Al-Muntasir] I ought to say "no," but many Thai workers in Libya have recently been advised by the Americans to leave the country, and that does not exactly reassure us. aaa [Pera] In recent weeks your government has tried to persuade the two suspects in the Lockerbie massacre case to give themselves up spontaneously to stand trial in Scotland, but their lawyers have opposed this, and dispute your advice. This has caused a certain amount of surprise in the West, and sly commentators are talking about a theatrical performance to put on a show of democratic dialogue in Libya. Are such suspicions ungenerous?

[Al-Muntasir] Absolutely. Unfortunately, there is still a distorted vision of Libya in many countries, even on the part of experts or people who claim to be experts. The only Italian politician who really knows our situation is [former Premier] Giulio Andreotti. But right now he has other things on his mind. My impression about Andreotti's problems with the judiciary is that, since he cannot be caught on bribe charges, they have tried another way. Without wishing in any way to interfere in your affairs, I think your Operation Clean Hands judges sometimes overdo things.

[Pera] In recent weeks there has been talk of a failed attempt at a coup d'etat, enacted by the military from the Misurata region, and of the arrest of two rebel colonels. Can you confirm those rumors?

[Al-Muntasir] Those rumors are totally groundless. The situation in that area—where, by the way, they produce an excellent white wine—is very well known to me since I am from Misurata. No, there was no coup, and the two colonels in question were seen last Thursday in Sidi al-Barani with our leader al-Qadhdhafi. Anyway, does this look to you like a country where there is tension, where curfews are in force, or any measures like that? Go into the streets, talk to the people.

[Pera] I tried to, but the people will not talk to foreigners, especially not journalists.

[Al-Muntasir] That is true, they are very diffident. Well, you know what you should do? Go to Porta Portese [flea market] in Rome; it is full of Libyans who speak quite freely. Do not listen to rumors like the one claiming that the missile which shot down your airplane over Ustica was really aimed at the jet al-Qadhdhafi was on that evening as he flew to Prague. I was on the plane too, that

day, and I can assure you that the pilot did not have to suddenly alter his route, as has been reported.

Editor Assails French Call To Lift Arab Boycott

LD0911215793 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] France has called for ending the Arab boycott of the Zionist enemy. The French minister of European Affairs said the basic condition for lifting this boycott has been met. Our Arab affairs editor commented on this by asking: What basic condition has been met to prompt the Arabs to lift their boycott of their enemy? Has this enemy's occupation of Arab Palestine ended? Have the 7 million displaced Palestinians returned to their land to establish their independent state over the whole of its territory?

The editor added that the remarks of the French minister, and other similar Western remarks made earlier, come at a time when the Zionist terrorists are stepping up their bestial attacks on the sons of the Palestinian people, barbarically destroying the homes of Palestinian families, burning their contents, and displacing their inhabitants—women, children and the elderly.

Any talk about ending the boycott of the enemy in the face of all this is nothing but an act of disregard for the Arabs, their feelings, and their legitimate rights, and an expression of support for the Zionist enemy and a reward to it for occupying Arab land and for perpetuating aggression against them.

Mauritania

Government Decree Reshuffles Cabinet 9 Nov

AB0911220093 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 1930 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic in Nouakchott on 9 November on government reshuffle; read by announcer]

[Text] The following persons, in accordance with a decree signed today, upon the proposal of the prime minister, have been appointed to the cabinet: MINISTER OF:

MINISTER OF:	
Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	LEKHEL, Ahmed Salem Ould
Fisheries and Maritime Economy	DAH, Mohamed Lemine Salem Ould
Commerce, Handicrafts, and Tourism	CH'BIH, Shaykh Malainine Ould
Rural Development and Environment	MBARECK, Sghaier Ould
Equipment and Transport	MOUSSA, Diagana
National Education	HAYE, Moctar Ould
Civil Service, Labor, Youth, and Sports	ABDI, Abdallahi Ould
Health and Social Welfare	LAMAR, Mohamed Ould
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR:	
Literacy and Traditional Education, and Maghreb Union Affairs	ALI, Shaykh Ould

Morocco

Hassan Dissolves Cabinet, Appoints Prime Minister

LD0911205393 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 93

["Statement from the Royal Household and Medals Ministry"]

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received today, Tuesday 9 November, his Prime Minister Mr. Mohamed Karim Lamrani, and informed him—may God assist him—of his royal decision to relieve the current government of its duties in accordance with the provisions of Article 24 of the constitution.

In accordance with the provisions of the same article, his majesty has appointed Mr. Mohamed Karim Lamrani prime minister, and entrusted him to submit as soon as possible to his majesty the list of individuals whom he will recommend to his majesty to form the next government.

Sudan

Minister Comments on IGADD Initiative for South

EA0911163793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Bishop Gabriel Rorech, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, has renewed Sudan's confidence in the ability of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states to solve the southern problem. Speaking from the Foreign Ministry's regular forum this morning, he dealt with the results of the Preferential Trade Area summit recently held in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The minister of state at the Foreign Ministry drew attention to the speech of Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi during the summit touching on the efforts made to solve the problem of the south. His Excellency explained that the committee to follow

up on the southern Sudan issue, composed of the foreign ministers of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Eritrea, was now striving to draw up an agenda for negotiations to be held between the government and the rebels.

Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, spoke from the forum, confirming Sudan's rejection of American interference in its internal affairs. On the expected meeting between the Sudanese and Egyptian foreign ministers, Mr. Baridu said the government was awaiting the reply of the Egyptian side in this respect.

Committee To Oversee 'Mistreatment' Claims Formed

EA0911205093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1814 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Nov (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has directed the formation of a committee to hear complaints from any complainant or person affected by encroachments which could have happened during the arrest of some foreign currency dealers and speculators. A source at the Presidency of the Republic added that it had come to the knowledge of the president that there were allegations of mistreatment that had accompanied the arrest of some of the dealers and speculators. The source added that the committee would meet affected citizens from 13 to 18 November.

Relations With Ethiopia Assessed

PM0911112493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p5

[Unattributed report: "Khartoum: Sudanese-Ethiopian Relations At Their Best"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—A Sudanese Government source emphasized yesterday that Sudanese-Ethiopian relations "are now at their best in their history" and that Ethiopian Foreign Minister Mesfin Seyoum recently visited Khartoum "to develop ties and exchange views on the Ethiopian move to solve the Somali problem. During that visit, he did not in any way speak of any deterioration in relations and did not submit any protest against Sudanese concentrations in the border area."

The source said that the report published by AL-HAYAH on 28 October about a protest by the minister against concentration of Popular Defense Forces in the border area "is not true. Ethiopia has expressed no concern," and, furthermore, the concentration is "to mark the fourth anniversary of the Popular Defense Forces in the town of al-Damazin" near the border.

He stressed that the Ethiopian authorities "did not request a change of the celebration venue. The celebration will take place in the same place as scheduled."

Tunisia

Ben Ali Address Marks 7 November Movement

LD0711183293

[Editorial Report] Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1014 GMT on 7 November carries a live or recorded 39-minute speech from the Carthage Palace by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of celebrations marking the removal of former President Habib Bourguiba from power on 7 November 1987.

Ben Ali begins his speech by saying that although only six years have elapsed since the 7 November Movement, they have been rich with gains and achievements. The movement was staged for many reasons, including opening a new era of confidence and hope by realization of national reconciliation and to proceed in security and safety to overcome the legacies of the past. Tunisia should be proud of these gains and achievements. On previous occasions we spoke about the reforms made in various fields and the achievements made. The achievements made last year mean that the Tunisian dinar can now be converted into other currencies to facilitate the operations of investors and exporters. We should, when rejoicing at these achievements, be aware of the challenges of the future. Reform is continuous.

Continuing his review of achievements, President Ben Ali said that precautionary principles have been laid down to maintain the stability of the currency, guarantee development, and promote investment. In view of the important role of loans in this field, and in light of the encouraging achievements made in controlling inflation, "We have decided to reduce by two points the interest on loans." Next year will see the completion of major reforms in economic liberalization and the continuation of the reforms in the administrative apparatus, as well as the beginning of the activities of the free trade zones. Ben Ali then referred to education and technology and how the world is witnessing rapid development in this field. He spoke about the reforms introduced into the educational and vocational training systems. Discussing women, he said that since the beginning of the new era the affairs of the Tunisian woman have always been given due care and attention. He reviewed the reforms that have been made in this field and stressed the significance of upholding women's rights.

Turning to the question of employment, he said that it represents one of the major social issues that all regimes in the world are trying to tackle. He said that in recent years many programs have been laid down in order to find jobs for the unemployed. "Next year we will be able to create 60,000 jobs, compared with 55,000 jobs this year," he added. He referred to the national campaign to find employment for those with higher education certificates and thanked all those who helped in finding jobs for these people. Ben Ali then spoke about social reforms and reviewed the achievements made in this field, stressing how these reforms have contributed to the elimination of some of the phenomena of poverty in

some countryside areas. He emphasized that it was the belief of the government that if man is neglected or deprived, then human rights will be meaningless and valueless. He then spoke about development and how it is being achieved according to plan. He also claimed the environment is being protected from all types of pollution and spoke about cleaning up towns.

The government, he said, has so far made drinking water, health centers, and schools available for many areas in the countryside for the benefit of 120,000 citizens at a cost of more than 23 million dinars. Recently we have given the signal for the commencement of the second phase, which will cover 40 areas. The amount earmarked has been increased to 30 million dinars. We have prepared new programs to combat poverty and to make social housing available. The state will help 100,000 needy families at a cost of 30 million dinars. It will finance the construction of 2,000 houses for poor families.

We also devoted our care and attention to Tunisian communities abroad, he continues. We created jobs for social workers to extend help to the families in need of support. We have believed that such efforts in these fields constitute a guarantee for stability and balance in society. "We have placed human rights at the forefront of the cultural project whose principles we declared in the 7 November Declaration." We have made rapid steps in this sphere. Our country now enjoys the respect and appreciation of state, organizations, government and non-government establishments, and all human-rights activists.

Out of our desire to have openness in dealing with issues of human rights, our country is one of a very few countries that publish a national report on human rights, a matter that can help us to advance continuously in this sphere, he added. Ben Ali then referred to the efforts being made to create various societies and bodies for every aspect of the society.

Our country has enjoyed stability and progress, Ben Ali said. At the same time, it has been playing an active role in the international field. It assumes a prominent position among nations. Ben Ali said that "Tunisia has concentrated its efforts on the restoration of Arab solidarity and carried out important initiatives to revive Arab-African cooperation." It prepared for opening negotiations with the European Community to establish a partnership relation between the two sides. "Tunisia carried out its duty in advancing the peace process in the Middle East and in supporting the Palestinian cause, proceeding from its belief in the duty of Arab solidarity and its attachment to international legitimacy," Ben Ali added.

This sixth year of change is the link between two political stages. In the first we made great advances, but more awaits us in the second. Reforms and achievements should continue, he stressed. Tunisians should realize the size of the forthcoming stage and should be prepared to tackle it with the same determination and resolve.

Ben Ali concluded by stressing the role of the RCD [Democratic Constitutional Assembly] and thanking the members for nominating him for a new presidential term. He said that amendments have been prepared for the electoral laws and these will be submitted for the Higher Authority of National Charter and will then be submitted to parliament. Ben Ali then states: "I would like to announce today that the voting in the presidential and legislative elections will be on Sunday, 20 March 1994." The media will have a basic role to play in the elections and during the campaign. "For our part, we will make sure that the administration will adhere to total neutrality and that the election will be conducted in total honesty and openness." As much as we are contented with our achievements, we realize how heavy is the forthcoming stage. We are confident in ourselves and place our trust in God and the people.

Textile Accord Signed With European Commission

LD0511222893 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Nov 93

[Text] Tunisia and the European Commission have signed an agreement regulating the entry of Tunisian textile products and clothing exports into the European Common Market. This agreement, which will last for two years, is an extension of a similar agreement which runs out at the end of this year and provides for the raising of the quotas granted to Tunisia as regards textile products and clothing.

Regime's Security Changes, Other Actions Reported

NC0911195593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] According to reports from Mosul, Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan, interior minister of the Iraqi regime, has made sweeping changes in the repressive services since he assumed temporary responsibility for Mosul Governorate in order to deal with the deterioration that has taken place in the authority of the ruling regime and to try to check popular indignation there.

KURDISTANI NE newspaper reports today that the ruling regime in Baghdad has relieved the director of public intelligence from his post and appointed Tal'at al-Duri instead. The responsibility for special security was given to Qusayy, the son of the dictator. All special security members from the al-Juburi tribes have been sent to training centers in the al-Ghizlan camp in Mosul.

The reports from Mosul add that when Watban visits the region, the regime intends to vacate all the villages that lie along the (Salla'far), ('Afrah), Ba'qubah, and al-Shaykhan roads. The fascist regime in Baghdad also intends to conduct a series of military maneuvers in the Ba'shiqah area and (Jabal Maqlub), near the front lines of the liberated areas of Kurdistan. The maneuvers will be conducted under the direct supervision of criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the regime's defense minister.

Ground-to-Ground Missiles Said Fired in Exercises

NC0911195893 Paris AFP in English 1703 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 9 (AFP)—Iraqi troops fired ground-to-ground missiles in the first exercises of their kind since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, the official Iraqi news media reported Tuesday [9 November].

The missiles "hit their targets with high precision," the military was quoted as saying during the exercises that took place near Karbala, some 110 kilometers (65 miles) southwest of Baghdad.

Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid attended the maneuvers dubbed "Fatal Blow." Iraqi television showed 14 seven-meter-long missiles aboard mobile launchers and heading toward a desert area.

The range of the missiles was not given. U.N. Security Council resolutions ending the Gulf war ban Iraq from possessing missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometers (90 miles).

Before Iraqi troops were driven from Kuwait by a U.S.-led coalition, Baghdad had about 800 Scud-B missiles, which could be launched from 50 fixed sites and about 40 mobile launchers, according to western military experts.

More than 70 of these missiles struck targets in Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

At the end of October a team of U.N. experts said it found no evidence of missiles and other military equipment banned by the ceasefire resolutions.

Saddam Visits Military Industrialization Organization

JN0911195293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, has visited the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO]. During the visit, his excellency met with Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the minister of industry and minerals; Lieutenant General 'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, presidential adviser; and Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid al-'Ubaydi, the MIO director.

King Husayn Cited on Peres Meeting Report

JN1011105093 Baghdad Voice of Arab Syria in Arabic 0818 GMT 10 Oct 93

[Report carried within the "News and Reports" program]

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn has avoided confirming or denying reports that he met with enemy Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to discuss a draft Jordanian-Zionist peace treaty. Answering a question during a visit to the Press Center set up to cover the legislative elections, King Husayn said: The issue is not to confirm or deny something. He added: It is obvious that the peace process was launched a long time ago and that it is ongoing. He reiterated Jordan's full commitment to achieve a just and lasting peace in the region.

Official Zionist sources affirmed that Peres and King Husayn met in Jordan last Tuesday [2 November] to prepare for signing a peace treaty.

Regarding the legislative elections, King Husayn said the important thing in these elections is to entrench democracy and the participation of Jordanians, whatever their origin, in drafting their future.

Enemy Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced that Jordan will sign a peace agreement with the Zionist entity without Syria or the Palestinians. Addressing the Knesset Foreign and Defense Committee, Peres said that Jordan will agree to sign a comprehensive peace agreement with the Zionist entity without Syria and the Palestinians. Peres added that there are no real problems in concluding a peace agreement with Jordan.

National Assembly Denies Kuwaiti 'Allegations'

JN0911165993 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 8 (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has rejected allegations of the Kuwait rulers that there are Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq and said those claims were part of a political blackmail and attempt to

exploit the European Parliament for passing resolutions harming the Iraqi people and intensify the embargo.

In a message addressed to the European Parliament, the National Assembly expressed deep regret over the resolution it had taken and which demanded the Iraqi Government to release what it had termed as Kuwaiti prisoners and others of different nationalities.

The message said the European Parliament position is considered a passive attitude toward Iraq and it was depended on one-sided claims and without checking with the attitude of Iraq.

The message added that since March 1991, the Kuwaiti rulers submitted seven list containing what they had termed as missing Kuwaitis and each time list down a number that is different of the one mention in previous lists. This contradiction indicates the intention of exploiting the issue of missing and employing it as a means for political blackmail.

The Assembly message further said that submitting incorrect information in such issue is considered an immoral action aimed at using the European Parliament for issuing resolutions that harm the Iraqi people and increase the duration of the embargo in addition to make desperate attempts to distort the reputation of Iraq.

The message further referred the European Parliament to the minutes of a Geneva meeting held in October 1991 between Iraq and the states of alliance in the presence of the International Red Cross. It pointed out that Iraq had complied with its obligations toward the prisoners and announced the non-presence of prisoners after releasing several of them.

The message added that the only number of prisoners was 4308 prisoners registered with the Red Cross and were not permitted by the Kuwaiti rulers to return. The Kuwaiti rulers allowed only 691 to return until July 1993 and the others wait for the approval of the regime on their return.

The National Assembly called the European Parliament for a sincere assessment to the difficult conditions through which Iraq is passing and stressed that claims of Kuwait rulers were nothing more than attempt to create an atmosphere of fabricated tension aimed at perpetuating the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

Kurdish Official Says 7 Killed in Turkish Attacks

NC0811210093 Paris AFP in English 2004 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Arbil, Iraq, Nov 8 (AFP)—Turkish warplanes and artillery have attacked areas of northern Iraq, killing seven Iraqi Kurds, a Kurdish official said here Monday [8 November].

Areas near Zakho were hit Saturday and Sunday night in attacks apparently aimed at Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) guerrillas, according to Jabbar Firman, the defense minister in the self-declared Kurdish government of northern Iraq.

But none of the Turkish Kurdish separatists were in the region, he added.

Foreign relief organizations in Zakho confirmed the attacks, but gave no casualty figures.

PUK Leader Views Ties With PKK, Turkish Policy

TA0911101593 Ankara Show Television in Turkish 2030 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in northern Iraq by moderator Mehmet Ali Birand and correspondent Can Dundar, as well as guests Nationalist Action Party leader Alparslan Turkes and Democracy Party Deputy Orhan Dogan, in the studio on the "32d Day" program—live, in English with simultaneous translation into Turkish; passages within slantlines broadcast in Turkish with simultaneous translation into English]

[Text] [Birand] Mr. Talabani, today's HURRIYET newspaper carries a report that some of the concrete buildings constructed by the Turkish Army for your peshmergas are now being used by the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan]. Why did you allow this?

[Talabani] This is not true. It is a false accusation and a very cheap article. Anyone can come to Kurdistan and see that it is a fabrication and a big lie designed to disturb the relations between the Kurdish people in Iraq and the Turkish Government.

[Birand] We are told that your association or cooperation with PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan is increasing. Have you seen him? What is your relationship with him now?

[Talabani] It is very obvious to everyone that this is not true. We are still fulfilling our promise to secure the border for Turkey and prevent any kind of violation of the Turkish border from the Iraqi side. Our relationship with Mr. Ocalan was very clear. We tried to help achieve a peaceful solution, to end the bloodshed, and to protect the [word indistinct] brotherhood between the Kurdish people and the Turkish people.

[Birand] Another thing: What about the (Zelig) camp? Mr. Osman Ocalan [brother of the PKK leader] was there. Is it true that Mr. Ocalan's forces, the PKK forces, are now training your peshmergas?

[Talabani] One can only laugh at this farce and very big lie. After 33 years of fighting the Iraqi forces, the peshmergas do not need to be trained by Ocalan's forces. These are false accusations. This is not true.

[Birand] We hear that the PKK is now using your part of northern Iraq much more freely. You promised the Turkish Government that you would control the area. Can you control it? What are you doing there?

[Talabani] We still control the border. We continue to maintain security at the border. We invite your journalists to come to Kurdistan and see with their own eyes that we continue to secure and protect your border. It is not at all true that anyone can use our border. You know that guerrilla warfare is a special kind of war. A small unit may come from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan but not from Iraqi Kurdistan to Turkey.

[Dundar] Now, Mr. Talabani, after the death of Turgut Ozal, did you see any drastic change in Turkish policy toward the Kurdish problem?

[Talabani] I think the death of President Ozal was a great loss for the Kurdish and Turkish peoples. I think we all feel that we lost a great friend.

[Dundar] Did you see any change in Turkish policy?

[Talabani] I am far from Turkey now. I hope that Turkish policy toward Iraqi Kurdistan will remain as it was at the time of President Ozal.

[Birand] Mr. Talabani, I am with Nationalist Action Party leader Alparslan Turkes in the studio now. He wants to ask you a question.

[Turkes] /We are brothers with the Kurds. We really love them very much. We wish them well. We have lived with them for hundreds of years. We have the same religion and cultural background. Abdullah Ocalan is a bloodstained murderer. He is a criminal. Mr. Talabani, why are you so close to Ocalan? You should not have any contact with him. You should have a stand against him./

[Talabani] Mr. Turkes, you know that the Kurdish and Turkish peoples lived together for hundreds of years and fought together against the enemies of Islam and Turkey. From the beginning of the Ottoman Empire to the foundation of the Turkish Republic, the Kurdish people have always supported their brothers in Turkey. I think this historical brotherhood between the Turkish and Kurdish peoples must be protected, expanded, and strengthened. I think that bloodshed, violence, and military solutions cannot help this kind of brotherhood. We are not cooperating with Ocalan or others who use violence. We support democratic and peaceful solutions to all problems, the Kurdish problem included.

[Turkes] /Do not shake that murderer's bloodstained hand./

[Talabani] Mr. Turkes, when we tried to help bring peace to Turkey, we consulted with the people responsible in Turkey, including the Turkish president and our friend General Esref Basar. They encouraged us; they persuaded us to help bring peace and stability to Turkey.

[Dundar] Mr. Talabani, in the studio we have a parliamentarian from the Democracy Party, Mr. Orhan Dogan. He has a question for you.

[Dogan] /Is there a possibility for a new cease-fire or detente process?/

[Talabani] I hope that Turkey will experience peace and prosperity. I hope that Turkey will be able to solve all problems in a democratic way. I believe it is always better to have peace and a political solution rather than violence and a military solution.

[Birand] Mr. Talabani, Mr. Dogan is asking if you see the possibility of a new period of cease-fire in the near future.

[Talabani] Yes, I think there is a possibility.

[Dundar] Can you play the role of a mediator again?

[Talabani] As I told you before, I did not play a mediation role. I only encouraged and pursued a peaceful process. Now, if Turkey and the other side agree and ask me to do so officially, I will. Otherwise, I have enough headaches. I do not want to add any more to our own problems.

[Birand] Mr. Talabani, thank you very much for our conversation. We hope to see you again in Ankara soon.

[Talabani] Thank you. We are waiting to see you in Iraqi Kurdistan, Mr. Birand.

Turkey Said Supplying Electricity to Kurdistan Area

NC0911200693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] AL-MU'TAMAR newspaper reported yesterday that the Turkish Government has agreed to supply electricity to the Dahuk Governorate from November this year to March next year at the rate of 10 megawatts between 0700 and 2300 daily and at the rate of 20 megawatts between 2300 and 0700 daily.

Tractor Tires Manufactured for 'First Time'

JN0911183293 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A team of the creative engineering cadres of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Military Industrialization Organization has managed, for the first time in the country, to manufacture a big tire for tractors and trucks, an authorized source at the Ministry of Industry and Minerals told an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent. [passage omitted]

The source said that the specialized cadres also managed to manufacture the rubber inner tube for this type of tires. He explained that this achievement is considered a major contribution by industrial sector to the agricultural sector and to (?defeating) the unjust blockade imposed on the creative Iraqi people.

Plans for Signing of Accord, Summit 'Completed'

TA1011053493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] The preparations in Jerusalem for the signing of an agreement of principles with Jordan and for a public meeting between Prime Minister Rabin and King Husayn in Washington in two days have already been completed. Senior political sources in Jerusalem told our correspondent Hayim Hecht, however, that the fate and timing of this move now depend on a final decision by King Husayn.

Our correspondent has learned that Israel has made the implementation of all the economic understandings Foreign Minister Peres reached with King Husayn last week conditional on the public signing of an agreement of principles between the two countries.

Rabin Aide Says No Summit on Agenda

TA1011113993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Shim'on Sheves, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says that at the present time, Yitzhaq Rabin does not have a meeting with King Husayn on the agenda of his upcoming visit to the United States. Sheves added that in the next few weeks or months, however, peace will be made with Jordan and a meeting between the prime minister and the king will be held.

Referring to yesterday's meeting between Rabin and the heads of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, Sheves told Qol Yisra'el the meeting was made possible after the prime minister received a letter from the leaders stating they are not connected with a series of derogatory remarks leveled at Yitzhaq Rabin recently.

Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer says that to the best of his knowledge, the agreement of principles with Jordan has been completed and the economic portion will be made public in the very near future. Minister Ben-Eli'ezer told Qol Yisra'el that all the fundamental problems between Israel and Jordan have been resolved and laid out in documents.

Peres on Jordan Accord: Everything 'In Good Time'

TA1011064993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Karmit Gay and Hayim Hecht—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning, Mr. Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Gay] Well, now we know everything: who said what, when, and to whom; the king's health; and even his literary taste. The question is: When will all these meetings come out of the closet?

[Peres] The problem is not with the meetings but with our relationship with Jordan.

[Gay] Is the problem not with the meetings?

[Peres] The meetings are only a means; they are not an end in themselves. From this viewpoint, constant progress is being made. Last weekend, considerable progress was made in the meetings in Paris and Copenhagen. We are slowly building the cooperation between Jordan and Israel. I also want to say that as far as Jordan is concerned, some of the meetings are open, such as the meeting between the director general of the Foreign Ministry and the Jordanian minister in charge of economic affairs and the director general of the Jordanian Foreign Ministry. The United States also participated in this meeting. The meeting between Crown Prince Hasan and myself in Washington was also held publicly. In that meeting, we reached open understandings. I do not know why people are always looking for things under the carpet. We decided to establish a joint American-Jordanian-Israeli committee, with two representatives from each party, to deal with the most basic issues in our lives.

[Gay] Will we see on the White House lawn next Friday [12 November] a sight similar to the one we saw approximately one month ago?

[Peres] I do not think so. I do not know what is the source of all these reports. This thing requires meticulous preparations. Everything will come in good time; the time for this has not arrived.

[Gay] I want to quote an excerpt from a report in today's edition of MA'ARIV by Shalom Yerushalmi. According to this report, an agreement of principles has already been signed. This agreement stipulates that Israel will transfer to Jordan territories in the 'Arava and Dead Sea areas but will lease them back for a long period at a token price. Is the idea of the transfer of sovereignty and leasing feasible?

[Peres] This is a matter for negotiations. I would not like to put the cart before the horse.

[Gay] What about cooperation in Dead Sea energy projects, transportation, agriculture, and tourism? Are you willing to admit this?

[Peres] Yes, certainly. On the issue of energy, for example, it is obvious that if we connect the Jordanian, Egyptian, and Israeli electricity grids we will save approximately $6 billion for the three countries, and this is not something that can be ignored. We are openly discussing cooperation in building ports and on water issues and desire to reach an agreement on these issues. In my opinion, Jordan has taken a strategic decision and has made up its mind to achieve progress. Instead of guesswork, let us look at the facts: Jordan has joined the multilateral talks, despite the fact that Syria has not done so. Jordan has signed an agenda with us, which is a sort of outline for peace—a thing that Syria has not done. Jordan is holding open meetings with us at the level of

the crown prince—a thing that Syria is not doing. At the same time, I want to stress that Israel, despite various accusations to this effect, is not trying to create division in the Arab world. Israel does not want to isolate Syria. Syria itself must reach a decision regarding the pace of negotiations. Israel is not trying to impede Syria in any manner.

[Gay] Let us return to the contacts with Jordan. According to the MA'ARIV report, the agreement also stipulates that Israel will exert its influence with the U.S. Administration and Congress to have part of Jordan's heavy foreign debt written off.

[Peres] Look, I think that as far as easing the burden of Jordan's foreign debt, President Clinton himself addressed the issue in the meeting with Crown Prince Hasan and myself. I have no doubt that if Jordan signs a full peace agreement with Israel, this will also ease its debt situation, because all parties will take its problems into consideration.

[Gay] Will Israel also take these problems into consideration?

[Peres] I am not sure that Israeli help is required. If this will be necessary, however, we will certainly help. I do not want to create the impression that we are running world affairs, because this is not the case. Israel is certainly interested, however, in a thriving Jordan. Generally speaking, political success depends on economic success. The higher the standard of living, the better the chances of reducing the level of violence and hatred.

[Gay] There is another interesting clause in the report, which says Israel will provide Jordan with a military umbrella and will defend it against a third party.

[Peres] I am not aware of such issues being under discussion.

[Hecht] Is this entire economic aid package to Jordan conditional upon the willingness of King Husayn to make a joint public appearance with Yitzhaq Rabin?

[Peres] You are dramatizing the issue by putting it on an entirely personal level. It is obvious, however, that economic cooperation is conditional on political peace. It is impossible to convene a large-scale economic conference without peace. The economic issue requires a change in the political situation. We will undoubtedly reach this situation sooner or later.

[Hecht] What, in your opinion, is still holding up King Husayn?

[Peres] I do not know what is holding him up. We still have to clarify, prepare, and iron out several issues. There are dozens of issues that have to be clarified and concluded. I believe the king has reached a strategic decision. I do not know what is the source of newspaper reports that the king has made his agreement conditional on Syria. I heard him speak on television yesterday. He said he is in favor of comprehensive peace, but he does not think each party should depend on the progress made by another party. He spoke out rather clearly on this issue.

[Hecht] Let us turn to an internal issue. What impact does the limping coalition have on the process? Does the fact that this is a minority government slow down the process?

[Peres] Why are you saying that we are a minority government? As a matter of fact, we enjoy a majority.

[Hecht] The coalition is made up of 56 Knesset members [MK's] and leans on the support of another five MK's. SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has still not....

[Peres, interrupting] A majority is a majority. It makes no difference what you call it. The peace process enjoys a majority of 61 MK's. Eight MK's are wavering, but not necessarily about the peace process. Our problems with SHAS and United Torah Jewry, for example, do not concern the peace process but completely different issues. In my opinion, there are also Likud members who support our moves. In talks with several Likud people yesterday, I found enthusiasm regarding the prospects of an agreement with Jordan. In my opinion, this description of a limping majority is not in sync with the real situation.

[Gay] If we will not see this spectacle on the White House lawn in two days, when will we see it?

[Peres] I am not a prophet. It is preferable to act without prophesying than to prophesy without acting.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Peres on Need for Progress in Talks With Syria

TA0911203293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was asked a perfectly routine question this evening about whether any progress had been made towards an agreement with Syria. His reply was very forthright and suggested strongly that he had been thinking about the lack of progress in this track in recent weeks.

[Begin Peres recording] We do hope very much that the talks in Washington will be renewed. As far as we are concerned, we are ready to do it this month, next month, and we really suggest to the Syrian partners, in spite of all the arguments, to come back and start the negotiations. At least on one point we are in full agreement: That the best option is to have a full and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, and a full and comprehensive peace in the Middle East means also a peace with Syria and with Lebanon. So arguing is one thing and arriving to peace is another thing, and the purpose is a peace, not an argument. [end recording]

In reply to another question, Peres said he had not heard the report from Amman quoting King Husayn as saying he would not make a separate peace with Israel. But, an informed source told me Foreign Minister Peres is anxious to push the negotiations with Jordan to a conclusion and wishes to avoid a situation in which the Jordanian king would hold back at the last moment because of the deadlock on the Syrian track. In particular, Peres wished to dispel the impression that Israel had put the talks with Syria on a back burner. [passage omitted]

Rabin, Settlers To Form Team on Security Issues

TA0911130993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpt] The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and settlement leaders from Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip ended several minutes ago at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. Our correspondent in the territories Golan Yokhpaz reports:

Prime Minister Rabin's meeting with settlement leaders ended a few minutes ago. Two important decisions were made today. One is to hold a meeting in the near future between the prime minister and settlers from Judaea and Samaria at one of the Jewish settlements in the territories. This meeting will take place after Prime Minister Rabin returns from the United States. Another decision is to establish a joint team made up of representatives of the settlers and Shim'on Sheves, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office. This team will discuss the security problems faced by the settlers in the territories. [passage omitted]

Qezi'ot Prison To Shut Down Dec 1994

TA0911120793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 9 Nov 93 p 8

[Report by Amnon Yosef]

[Text] A senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer at the Southern Command has told HADASHOT that the Qezi'ot detention facility will be shut down in December 1994. Presently, some 4,200 prisoners and detainees who were arrested during the intifadah, beginning December 1987, are being held at Qezi'ot, also known as Ansar 3.

Dozens of millions of shekels have been invested in the prison over the years. When it closes, all the Palestinians held there, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists, will be released. Thousands of prisoners belonging to Fatah are expected to be released within the next few weeks, in the wake of the Israeli-PLO agreement.

The prison, set up near Nizzana in proximity to the Egyptian border and far from populated areas, consisted of seven blocks with a capacity of 1,200-1,400 inmates each. The prison reached its peak capacity at the height of the intifadah, and prisoners were gradually transferred to other detention facilities. Furthermore, many of the prisoners held there completed their terms and were released.

Following the decline in the number of inmates held at Qezi'ot, several blocks were shut down. Currently, there are three large blocks, and several hundred additional prisoners are held at Prison Facility 7, on the same site.

Georgian Foreign Minister Arrives for 3-Hour Visit

TA0911211293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze arrived here tonight for a three-hour visit. At the airport, he transmitted to Acting Foreign Ministry Director General Eytan Ben-Tzur, President Shevardnadze's gratitude to Israel for supporting him in the internal struggle in his country. The foreign minister said that stability was returning to Georgia and expressed the hope that President Shevardnadze would visit Israel soon.

Minister: 'No Information' on Pact With Israel

JN0911204193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Nov 93

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] Jordan has expressed surprise at a statement by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Brussels on an imminent peace agreement between Jordan and Israel. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, the Jordanian information minister, told our Amman correspondent Randah Habib that this news is surprising and that Jordan has no information in this regard.

Islamic Front: Election Losses 'Painful'

JN1011135193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Islamic Action Front [IAF] has considered its obtaining 16 seats in parliament as a painful victory.

At a news conference, IAF Secretary General Ishaq al-Farhan tried to play down the Islamists' defeat in the parliamentary elections despite the defeat of some IAF members and despite that the number of seats won by the IAF was less than expected. He said: We will continue to raise the banner of political opposition to peaceful solutions and normalization with Israel, in addition to working on the internal front to improve laws and legislations.

Although the Islamists have fallen back in the parliamentary elections, they won the majority of votes in areas densely populated by citizens of Palestinian origin. This is considered a setback for the PLO. Some candidates did not win even though the PLO supported them so as to curb the Islamists' influence in the House of Representatives to avoid their strong opposition to its negotiations with Israel. Thus, the Islamists won three seats in al-Zarqa', which is densely populated by Palestinians. Another three Islamists also won in Amman's popular areas, in the First and Second Constituencies, which include the al-Wahdat Palestinian refugee camp.

In al-Baq'ah, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan, the extremist Islamist Muhammad 'Uwaydah, who raised the slogan of rejecting peaceful solutions with Israel, won.

IAF Commends Government Handling of Elections

JN0911165093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Amman, SAWT AL-SHA'B—The chairman of the information committee of the candidates from the Islamic Action Front [IAF] has stated the following:

Now that the voting process has ended and the final process of the counting of votes has begun, we would like to give credit to the Government and its departments for their good performance. We commend their eagerness to make the election process a success and we value their neutrality and integrity during the election process. However, the Government's care did not prevent the appearance of negative practices and violations by some who were deficient in both neutrality and integrity. The officials responded well and many problems were solved.

As the counting of votes begins, we would like the government to overcome all the shortcomings and generalize the state of neutrality and integrity, especially since the counting process is not being affected directly by the citizens and requires further care.

King Husayn Holds Post-Election News Conference

JN0911121893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 0925 GMT 9 Nov 93

[News conference by Jordan's King Husayn with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Press Center in Amman following the announcement of the results of parliamentary elections—live, in Arabic and English]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Good morning to you, brothers. I am glad to have had this opportunity and to once again thank Almighty God for the blessings and success he granted us. I would also like to extend my thanks and gratitude to the big Jordanian family, the kinfolk and clan, the beloved ones in this homeland on this pure soil while we are all celebrating what they achieved through their awareness and eagerness to maintain this march both now and in the future. It is a march we chose along a path from which we will not deviate—the march of democracy, consultation, participation in drawing up the landmarks of the road ahead of us all with all their details. It is the objective, good march.

We all have the right to take pride in what we have achieved since we chose to return to what is normal, logical, and required if nations choose to live and continue through the solidarity and cohesion of all of its diverse elements. The march should not be dependent on a certain person; it is a march in which all, both leadership and people, are equal in shouldering the responsibility and performing their duties toward the coming generations. My profuse thanks, gratitude, and appreciation for his excellency the prime minister, the interior minister, and all those who participated in this phase of our life in terms of their efforts and eagerness to perform their duty to enable the citizens, sons and members of this large family regardless of their origin, to exercise their right to elect in absolute freedom and integrity. Many thanks to them all, to all who stayed awake for several nights and those who stayed awake with me yesterday or during this phase, and to all departments, including Jordan Television and Radio. My thanks also go to you all because you were with us at this phase. I hope you have been pleased by what you saw, sensed, and experienced with us during this electoral process to

elect a new House of Representatives. I beseech God to grant us success in making Jordan an example and model to be emulated by others in the world. It is also hoped that this will be the image which stemmed from respect for the Constitution and care to safeguard it—an image which resulted in a Jordanian meeting which led to the formulation of the National Charter that was adopted by Jordan. To all companions of the march I say that we, praised be God, are moving along the road of good and success.

My congratulations to those who won the confidence of this country's citizens to represent them in the new House of Representatives. My consolation to those who did not win this confidence at this phase and in these elections although they are all part of us. I greatly hope that we will prove once again that we all accept the will of this country's sons and daughters, men and women. We experience such phases and we all deal with them in a sporting and true Arab manner. Thanks and appreciation to you. I hope that you, particularly our Arab brothers, will convey to all our people and brothers in the larger homeland what you saw, sensed, and experienced with us in this country. I hope to be successful in answering your questions, but allow me to talk to our many friends, in addition to those present here. Perhaps it is better, instead of questions in Arabic and other languages, to deal with the issue on the Arab level and then reply to our guests' questions.

[King Husayn switches to English] I would like to thank all our friends who have been with us during this very interesting phase and very important phase of our lives here in Jordan. I hope that you have been able to see for yourselves and live with us the excitement, and the determination, and the maturity of the people of Jordan, regardless of their origins, in executing their responsibilities towards themselves now and for the future and in electing to the new parliament the members of their choice. I am so proud to be a Jordanian. I am so proud of the faith and trust that has always been there and that has manifested itself once again in the response to a call for all to shoulder their responsibilities at this time and to make democracy more of a success with every passing phase. We are committed to democracy, to pluralism, to respect for human rights and to make of our country an example, hopefully, to others near and far, [to] respecting our constitution and the great achievement of formulating a National Charter years ago through the contributions of every school of political thought in this country. I am very happy with the turnout to these elections. I think they are very, very respectable, and they reflect a growing sense of responsibility, which satisfies me no end and fills me with pride. We promised ourselves before anyone else a clean, honest election and I am very grateful to all those who helped make it so. I congratulate those who won the confidence of the people of Jordan and I hope others will take it in a good spirit, and in a sporting spirit those who were not chosen by the people of Jordan at this time to assume their responsibliites, though members of our one family. I would like to thank you for being with us. I hope that you will reassure the world that this country and the people of Jordan are determined to make a contribution to this region through sharing the responsibility of contributing towards a better future for themselves through democracy and setting of themselves a good example to others. I thank you very very much indeed. I would ask you if your views conicide with mine to permit me to answer the Arabic questions first and then I'll come back to our guests and our friends. Maybe that would be an easier way rather than have a mixture of questions and answers. So, if you don't mind, I'll come back to you in English in just a few minutes. [end of dialogue in English]

[Reporter] Your Majesty: Now that the results are out, and the opposition parties won 22 seats, roughly speaking, Jordan is ushering in a new political era. What does this mean for Your Majesty? Will it lead to a change of government and Jordan's domestic and foreign policies?

[Husayn] Regarding political pluralism, this is enshrined in the National Charter that was drafted by a cross section of all the ideological schools and trends and Jordanians from all origins in the country. I have, on more than one occasion, referred to congestion that could block movement. I think we are on the right road. If not this time, in future elections, the number may decline from what it is now, and we may have convincing programs. [sentence as heard] I am confident that party members at this juncture are keen to learn lessons from every experiment and to serve their country and make this country a model for others in the world. We pray that God will grant us success and that things will continually change for the better. As for the government, no decision has been made. It is natural, though, that we have a fresh look at our affairs with the beginning of the new era in order for us to be in harmony with it. The government has done its part and acquitted itself. The government has done an excellent job discharging its responsibilities in the internal, Arab, and world arenas. There may be a reshuffle. We will look into this and then decide what to do. I have every respect for all the members of this government, especially the prime minister's contribution. Regarding the balloting, I thank all the ministers, especially those who have made an immediate contribution to the success of the elections.

[Reporter, in Arabic] The voter turnout in this election was approximateley 19 percent higher than the former elections. How do you see the composition of the new house, which is seen by local observers as an endorsement of your policies, especially in regard to Jordan's participation in the peace process? Do you think the configuration of the new parliament will facilitate Jordan's involvement in the peace process so as to produce agreements with Israel?

[Husayn] Regarding the turnout, I think it is a respectable percentage that speaks for a commitment on the part of Jordanians to democracy. It also shows the Jordanians understand democracy and realize that democracy is the way to achieve their aspirations and goals. It is also a vote of confidence in me and one in which I take

pride. Compared with the shape of things four years ago, I think we have moved forward, and for this I thank God. I also thank God for the fact that these are realistic figures. As for the new house, we are not yet on the road of peace, but we are committed to walk on this road. We made our positions known when we decided to go to Madrid. After the 1967 disaster, we did all we could on all fronts and we had a part in the formulation of UN Security Council Resolution 242—the mainstay of what is being talked about at this stage. Nothing has changed, then. We are serious in our efforts to achieve a just and honorable peace acceptable to future generations—a peace that gives them the opportunity to lead different lives than ours and to regain rights.

[Reporter] What kind of relationship do you see developing between the House of Representatives and the government? How far have your efforts gone to resolve intr-Arab differences?

[Husayn] Regarding the relationship between the government and the new house, I hope it will be ideal. The government represents the executive power, and the house represents the legislative powers. There is of course the judicial power. I take pride in steering the march with the aid of all Jordanians from all origins to make sure that one authority does not overshadow either of the other two authorities. We are not in the business of conflict. We are talking about cooperation in the best interest of this country. I think that the relationship will be ideal and that all will spare no effort toward serving the country.

As for inter-Arab relations, I am pained to say that these still fall short of our expectations. We want these ties to be based on mutual trust, on concern for the joint interests of all, on clarity and on stability. For our part, we extend our hands to whoever is willing to meet us along the road of service and construction. We pray to God to grant us success in serving the one Arab nation and realizing Arab unity. We aim for a closure of Arab ranks on the bases of mutual respect and a true desire for cooperation and integration among our selves. Thank you.

[Reporter] You have personally supported the peace process, and your policies have since 1967 been pro-peace. We have learned that Your Majesty will travel to Washington to give a new impetus to the peace process. How does Your Majesty see Jordan's place in the map of world politics?

[Husayn] Thanks be to God, Jordan's image in the outside world is one of credibility and respect. Jordan is known for its principled and courageous stands. As for the rumors regarding a decision on my part to go to the United States, I can deny such reports. This is because I am not aware of any arrangements to this effect at this point in time. I am scheduled to make a visit to the United States in early 1994, perhaps in mid-January, to undergo scheduled medical checkups, and, as a matter of course, to visit Washington. This is all I can say about this right now, sir. Now, I'll answer questions from journalists sitting in the back rows.

[Yasir Abu-Hilalah from the newspaper AL-SABIL] To begin with, let us congratulate you and ourselves on this national festival. Jordan has provided an unprecedented example in the Arab world of relations between the government and the opposition, especially the Islamists. A hallmark of the relationship between the two has been cohabitation and even cooperation. Now the Islamists have lost some some ground. The peace process has developed in a discernible fashion, but the Islamists are opposed to it in a major way. How do you see the future relationship between the government and Islamists, against the backdrop of the peace process?

[Husayn] Let us first draw a distinction between Islam and Islamists. I do not find in our Islam anything that bans moves toward a just and honorable peace. Indeed, I believe that peace is at the heart of our creed and religion. Second, I may have some reservations about labels. In this country, we are brothers. In this country, we are Muslims. I take pride in my affiliation with the family of Prophet Muhammad, which is more important than all the posts that any human being may acquire. It is a favor and will of God's toward me that I belong in this large family in this benevolent country. God willing, we will keep to the right path leading to our goals. Let me remind you here of the National Charter in the drafting of which what our brothers chose to call the Islamic Action Front took part. I think we have respect for each other's opinion.

I think it is appropriate to remember what I have said on more than one occasion because the way we behave in this country, whether within the front or one big family, Muslims and Christians and brothers, we can give an example on the meaning of true Islam in which we believe, which is most important in our life and existence. This contrasts with the distorted pictures and erroneous impressions many have about our noble creed and true religion in this world. Therefore, I see no problem or need to delve into this more than has already been done. Thank you.

[Omani News Agency reporter Talib al-Farsi] Your Majesty: The Government which supervised the elections is headed by a man who played a principal role in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Does this mean that the parliament will be the parliament of peace or the parliament that will endorse the future peace steps?

[Husayn] This does not depend on us. It hinges upon a host of factors. If asked, I would say that my wish in this life after these many years is to leave behind for this people and this nation—or to contribute to providing for them—a future characterized by stability and comfort for all and an opportunity to advance in the various fields and domains in a manner that enables us to attain the required status in order to confront all future challenges effectively. I believe that a big problem or a big and serious gap has thus far negatively affected the lives

of all in this region; it is represented in the differences existing among people. If we succeed in removing these differences, we will, God willing—and I will not be with you at that time because that will take a long time—be the strongest and this nation will restore its high position and self-confidence. We should not, will not, forget for a minute that we have relatives and brothers in the occupied parts of Palestine and that they suffered, sacrificed, and endured what is endured only by those who stood fast, stuck to their land, and adhered to their rights. The world circumstances have changed and matters devoloped in such a direction that we in this country had to choose whether to go to Madrid or not. At a major national gathering we decided to go. We then provided an umbrella to enable the Palestinians to exercise their right to speak directly about their concerns, hopes, and affairs. This is based on our firm position since the 1974 Rabat summit, considering the PLO the Palestinian Arab people's sole legitimate representative. There were attempts at coordination and joint action until we decided to disengage administrative and legal ties [with the West Bank] after we had firmly sensed the desire of the Palestinian kinsfolk and brothers to assume their responsibilities directly and independently. This does not mean that ties between us, Jordanians and Palestinians—and I am not talking about this country because here we are one family—are not special relations distinguished from those among the rest of the Arab brothers. They are distinguished on all levels.

We then moved together until our brothers decided to go by themselves and to exercise their right to represent themselves. So, there was a meeting in Washington, and the warriors [Palestinians and Israelis] shook hands. They also recognized each other and agreed on the framework for achieving peace. We had no choice but to support and back them. Our wish is that all the sons of Palestine will unite. That step put us in a position where we felt that we should deal with our own affairs. However, I should remind here, in anticipation of any question that might be asked later, that we all, all the parties concerned [with the peace process] began together. Our objective is to reach a just and comprehensive peace. However, in no way should this mean that we have to wait until progress is made by all, and until they achieve their objectives before we in this country embark on our own endeavors. This country has endured a great deal. It has suffered a great deal, and endured more than other countries. By pursuing this position, this country is not addressing its issues selfishly. By pursuing this position, it is also doing its utmost to support the Palestinian side and the Palestinian Arab people. Had our people, kinfolk, and brothers there been left alone, the results would have been negative. However, by supporting them, we enhance the possibilities of enabling them to achieve their objectives, and we will also be able to tackle our own affairs.

Concerning the government, or any measure that has anything to do with the peace process, we have elected the elite of our sons to assume responsibilities. I personally assume responsibility for all this. I am proud of all of them, of their sacrifices, and contributions. God willing, we hope that they will succeed.

['Abbas Khudayr 'Abbas from the Qatari newspapers AL-SHARQ and AKHBAR AL-USBU'] Your Majesty, Jordan has an effective and important role in unifying the Arab nation. You have contributed to achieving the Yemeni unity. Recently, a severe crisis surfaced between the Yemeni president and his deputy. You have sent your envoy to bring their views close together and to settle the crisis. However, it seems that the crisis threatening the Yemeni unity is still there. My question, Your Majesty, is: Are you still making efforts to settle differences between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid? Another question, if you would: What about your expected meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo, as has recently been reported by news agencies?

[Husayn] Concerning Yemen, they are dear brothers and people. I am extremely concerned. As an Arab citizen, I feel, and everyone feels, that the unity that was achieved was a response to our dreams and aspirations throughout the greater homeland. We beseech God to save Yemen from evil. I am personally in continuous contact with our brothers there. A delegation will leave here for Yemen soon. I will do my utmost to serve our brothers and kinsfolk there in order to contain the problem, if it really exists, and eliminate its causes, God willing. This is our duty which we will perform faithfully and sincerely.

[Text] With respect to the second part of your question, which is... [as heard]

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Husni Mubarak.

[Husayn] Sir, I intend to visit to Damascus shortly if possible, and also Cairo, God willing.

[Husayn] Has any topic been left unaddressed?

[Reporter] This area, sir.

[Husayn] This area. Yes, please.

[Sami Haddad, reporter for the Arabic Service of the British Broadcasting Corporation] Your Majesty King Husayn: In the course of the answer you have just provided to a question posed by a brother regarding Yemen and Syria, you have stated [sentence incomplete as heard]. Right now, you have a parliament. Any government to be formed will enjoy an overwhelming majority; that is, it will enjoy the support of the parliament in the peace process your majesty has initiated. As you have stated, the Palestinians have offered a great deal. There are various tracks in the peace process. Are we to understand from this that the new parliament will grant the government a carte blanch so that Jordan may heed its own interests through a separate solution?

[Husayn] Sir, the separate solution has been out of the question since 1974. Let us now recollect the days that followed the catastrophe of June 1967. At the time, we

held a dialogue with brothers within the Egyptian leadership. We did not need to hear them tell us that we had to do anything and everything in our power to save the land and the kinfolk and regain rights. We committed ourselves to one thing; that is, that we will not pursue a separate solution. We have not advocated a separate solution. The features of the picture have undergone drastic changes in the past few years. As for the new House of Representatives, I believe that it reflects the sentiments of the large Jordanian family. It is a response to an appeal addressed by this humble individual who has served the country, and who has been honored by God Almighty to be a member of this family and this march for so many long years. We appealed to our kinfolk in Jordan, to the beloved ones in this country, to aid our efforts and to send to the House of Representatives the best among good people. God be praised for their response, which reflects mutual trust. But, from the practical point of view, in a democratic system such as ours, there will, of course, be clarity with regard to the features of the course the country is taking, as well as participation in the decisionmaking process. Consequently, participation will involve the entire people regardless of the course we might take in light of future developments. Thank you.

I think that this will be the last question. After that, we will refrain from taking any more questions. Yes, sir.

['Irfan Amin, reporter for the Islamic Republic News Agency] My question is as follows: Given the important regional role being played by the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to geopolitical considerations, how does your majesty assess the relationship between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Husayn] Thank you, brother: I can say here that the relationship, God be praised, is fraternal. It hope that this relationship will be promoted and enhanced in all spheres and areas. I believe that what could be conducive to such an eventuality is a high-level meeting shortly, God willing, or a continuation of the dialogue so that we may identify the features of the road, constantly lay down strong foundations for fraternal bilateral relations, and consider the potential for future enhancement of these ties. The ties are normal and fraternal. They are based on mutual trust, and also on pride in our Islamic fraternity.

[Reporter] [words indistinct]

[Husayn] Please, that is enough. We have to answer the questions of the people who have been with us. Who are you, brother? That is enough.

[Begin English portion of news conference]

[Husayn] I think that we have done enough in this respect. Let me just answer our friends who are with us here. I think all of these [words indistinct] one stage or another. So, really, don't [words indistinct] what to do about that.

[Reporter] [words indistinct].

[Husayn] Okay.

[Reporter] Your majesty, in recent speeches you've been urging Jordanians to keep politics out of the mosque. Do you see last night's elections as evidence that Jordanians listened to you?

[Husayn] I believe that we are dealing with two separate answers here, sir. I do believe that politics should be kept out of the mosque, for the simple reason that I do not believe that any who might delve into the realm of politics are aware of all the facts and factors involved at the responsible level and that the houses of God are for all of us to worship in. But beyond that and regarding the Jordanian response to our appeal, I believe it was a response reflecting trust, the trust that goes two ways. There were suggestions and there was a debate—a lively debate in this country about the possibility of postponement of elections. But in the final analysis the question of trust was the one that decided it. We have faith in our people, in their ability to discern what is best for them. And we need them, and they need to be together in shaping their future. So I am very, very happy indeed with their response at this time. We appealed to them to send the best of those who could represent them in the coming difficult phase and they responded and for that I am very, very grateful.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] policies in which he is closely involved may be debated. Do you feel stronger as a result of the elections?

[Husayn] Do I feel stronger?

[Reporter] Yes.

[Husayn] I think Jordan feels stronger, sir. I am just the same.

[Reporter] Could the results of the elections be interpreted as a major support for the peace deal with Israel?

[Husayn] Again, my answer to that is that we have started on the path for peace a long, long time ago, when we accepted UN Security Council Resolution 242. In 1974, we accepted the Palestinian and Arab wish and committed ourselves to recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, and the decision for the Palestinians to speak for themselves. We coordinated to the best of our ability or attempted to coordinate with them until we decided to disengage, which enabled them to accept 242 and 338. And recently before we went to Madrid, we had a national congress here of the highest level in Jordan. We had people representing all Jordanians to decide whether we should [go] or not. We decided to go. So the process is ongoing since. Recent events have transformed the scene somewhat, when our Palestinian brethren decided to move on their own away from the umbrella that provided them with the opportunity to speak for themselves directly, and the meeting in Washington, the handshake, the mutual recognition, the agreement on the shape of things to come caused us to take a look at ourselves and our

own affairs and in regard to Palestine and Palestinian brethren to show the greatest of concern which has always been there for them to be united and be together more than at any time in the past in this critical phase and, naturally, it is our duty to support them and help them in any way we can. To leave them alone on their own would not have been the right approach, but to follow, ratify the agenda that we had helped ratifying until we saw progress on the Palestinian track and to begin to concern ourselves with our own problems is something that has come naturally. So the peace process started with the last parliament and the peace process will continue hopefully with this parliament and here in a democratic country, I hope that all will cooperate to achieve the best results. My commitment is for peace, a just peace, a lasting peace. My personal dream is a legacy that we can leave future generations—peace with dignity, peace that recovers rights and makes all feel that they can come together to enjoy what has been denied us all over such a long, long time. So the commitment is there and we will continue. Thank you.

[Reporter] Is it your view that the Islamists have now been sidelined? What is their strength now? Do they remain a threat to the Jordan you believe in?

[Husayn] There is no threat. We are one people. We are Muslims or Christians in this country. If we are talking about a political movement that is something else. But every element in this country came together under a royal commission years ago, four years ago almost, and concluded something that is very, very important in this country, a National Charter binding all of them. And so I don't see any problem really. I believe that this recent step is an evolution in the right direction. It is a reflection of what people desire and wish in terms of a choice of the best that they can choose in their view to represent them at this stage and in the coming times. And I hope that everyone will continue to go along the path of maintaining the unity of this country and moving ahead responsibly, not towards ourselves, but towards future generations as well, and we hope that we will succeed.

[AFP reporter Sami Haddad] In his last trip to Jordan, U.S. peace coordinator Dennis Ross pledged to look into the repercussions on the Jordanian economy by the maritime blockade on al-'Aqabah port. Has there been any development on this regard?

[Husayn] On this particular subject, I think there is the possibility of a breakthrough. But in regard to the entire region in a context of peace, you will recall that we agreed to go to the multilaterals and maybe some thought that was a little strange at the time, but we had in mind the possibility that peace can come and the needs of people, the needs for a qualitative change as far as people's lives are concerned in this entire region, obviously with priority to be given to the occupied territories and people there. So, I think that there is a lot of promise and you know—I mean for example—an election slogan might have been to do whatever is possible to provide opportunities for our people in the future to cope with the very heavy burdens that we have carried all the time, including a national debt. I believe that many of these subjects will be addressed in the times ahead, hopefully, by us obviously in terms of our own responsibilities and resources, but in a context of peace there will be such a change that might hopefully benefit everybody in this region in a manner unprecedented to this point in time.

[Reporter] One party did emerge after yesterday's voting with more seats in the parliament than any other. Will you ask that party to form the next government?

[Husayn] I doubt whether I would do so because, in that regard, the possibility is there I suppose of the best people being involved in forming the next government—the best capable people. Incidentally, there is no reason why members of a government should be members of parliament. And as far as the political scene, in terms of parties, if we are to look at it that way, I do not think or believe that we have reached our goal as yet. We may reach it in four years, we may reach it in eight years when, inevitably, political parties will be given the same chances with the passage of time to express themselves more coherently and when the numbers, I am sure, will dwindle from 20 to far less with programs that can convince people, then we are looking at a different scene. So, now we will look for, hopefully, the best and the next challenge we face is to form a new cabinet or to bring about some changes in the present one and then parliament will hopefully vote its confidence in the government and we will proceed from there, but I don't see any reason to single out a group because they have more seats or otherwise. We will try to choose the best and the most capable to handle responsibilities in the time ahead and it may be a grouping of all sorts of elements representing this country.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, [words indistinct] C Television. Do you expect that the election results will allow you to make bolder moves towards peace with Israel, and when do you expect to visit Jerusalem and possibly meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin publicly?

[Husayn] I think all in good time. But as far as Jerusalem, Jerusalem is a very, very important subject to all of us and I really hope and pray that my repeated calls of late will be heard, that as far as the holy city, so important to the followers of the three great monotheistic religions, equally, that the question of the rights of all will be addressed there and that only the sovereignty of God will be recognized over these holy places. And I think then, the three great faiths will come together and the children of Abraham will come together in a state of peace that will not only affect the immediate area but maybe the world beyond.

I hope on the other hand that progress will be made, and progress is being made. Now not everything can be put under the floodlights that cover us in this heated room all the time, but there is an ongoing process, and we hope it

will succeed in the sense that we will have a comprehensive peace in this region very soon. As far as Jordan is concerned, it is a part of this process, and hopefully a vital part of it. And particularly since the recent developments and steps that have taken place on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] THE WASHINGTON POST. Syria has been very critical lately of piecemeal progress made by Jordan toward peace with Israel, and there have been reports of meetings between you and Foreign Minister Peres, here in Amman. Can you enlighten us on the substance of these meetings if indeed they did take place?

[Husayn] First of all I haven't personally been told of Syrian criticisms to Jordanian policies and I have never criticized others for whatever policies they may decide on. Secondly, as far as the Jordanian policies are concerned, we are involved in a peace process and it is ongoing, and beyond that I do not care to say very much.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, this is a process obviously where you are slowly handing over the reigns of the power to a parliamentary system, but do you still see yourself as the man who must step in as a corrective if need be to guide Jordan's emergence to democracy. If in the next few years you don't approve of every course the Parliament may take, would you step in to correct the process?

[Husayn] Sir, I think that as Hashemites we have two roles, one a worldly one in the sense of our being a part of this nation and this country in particular, throughout history, the Arab nation, the Arab movement, and recently Jordan. And thank God we can be above differences and small interests, and can be a unifying factor. So combine that with democracy and I think it works very, very well. There may be a need from time to time to help, to guide, to suggest, because there is no direct involvement, there is no interest except everybody's interest. I might not be here for very long but my brother is here and whoever will follow behind. This is one side of it. The other is, the Hashemites and their position, which is far more important than anything in terms of a position in a worldly nature, or of (?a world) nature. And thank God, I hope all of us will continue to respect ourselves and cause ourselves to be respected in an area which is our greater homeland, the Muslim world as well as the Arab world itself.

I hope that we can behave in such a manner as to justify our pride in belonging to the house of the prophet. So there are the two dimensions of our being and our mission in life.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] Spain. Do you think that after the Oslo accord, the identity of the Jordanians of the Palestinian origin, it is in the crossroads?

[Husayn] I don't see any crossroads at all, sir, I think that we are all members of one family, equal rights, and if anybody from amongst our people would choose otherwise at any point, because that is his choice, we will respect it. This is within Jordan but beyond that we are fully supportive of our Palestinian brethren, and we believe that our relations in the future should be built in a way that will be an example to others in this entire region and beyond. We approach it in the following way. We would like to see it built on a solid foundation, from the grassroots upwards, based on trust and cooperation, and hopefully, in time, dispelling all the misconceptions that might have adversely affected these relations at times in the past.

So, we are two branches of one family, of one tree. This is the way we are, in terms of Jordan and Palestine but here in Jordan we are all members of one family regardless of our origins.

[UPI reporter (?Jonathon Furziger)] On one hand, you have the first—I am sorry. I am (?Jonathon Furziger) from the United Press International—You have the first woman elected to Parliament. On the other hand, they are only three candidates among more 530. What do you see as the future role of women in the Kingdom?

[Husayn] I think their future role is as important as the present one, and maybe more important. And I think that this is a very, very important step in terms of public life at this level of representation in parliament. And I don't see why the future won't be more of the same, because, after all, if you look at their statistics, I believe that more women voted in this last election than men.

[Reporter] [words indistinct].

[Husayn] I am very happy that this has happened, very proud. Well, I hope I am hoping that as a pioneer, she will do whatever she can to ensure that this is the beginning of an important road that will be followed by others in the future.

[Jordan Television reporter Murid Hammad] Your majesty, there has been few surprises in terms of the results of the elections, but with the overall picture, had you feel the impact of the new parliament on both pluralism in Jordan and the next four years of parliamentary politics?

[Husayn] I am very happy and very confident as far the future is concerned. God be praised for everything.

[Jordan Television reporter Maha al-Sha'ir] These were the first multiparty elections in over four decades. What do you think of the role that the political parties have played?

[Husayn] I think that it will take time, but I hope that we will see in the next elections or the ones after, and as we progress, more of a role for political parties. I think here it is fair to answer a question asked earlier. What I hope for is to give everybody the opportunity to develop and evolve, I hope, an opportunity that might not have been there for all in the past, but which will obviously be there in the future. And we will continue to work, guided for the respect for the constitution and, certainly, adherence to the National Charter. And hopefully, we will see fast improvement and progress with every day that passes.

[Reporter] My name is [words indistinct] Holland. In the program of the Islamic Arab [as heard] Front, the second point is that the party and the country should prepare for war against the Zionist enemy. My question is: Can such a party still stay in your government, looking for peace with Israel?

[Husayn] We have been fighting one war after the other [laughs], including those of building our country. We have given more than any. We do not regret that. We have suffered more than any. And our stand, quite frankly, in terms of our possibilities, has been over many years, including the last several years, a purely defensive one, to defend this country, and all the good in this country, which we hope will enrich this entire area.

That is all I can say and I would like to thank you very, very much indeed for your patience, and I hope that many of you, I am sure, have gotten more sleep than we have. So, in any event, thank you so much. May God bless you. [applause] [end dialogue in English]

Buwayz on Ross' Upcoming Tour of Region

NC0911184593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] In a meeting with the dean of editors [Milhim Karam] today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said there should be no fears about Lebanon in peacetime and that it will not be defeated economically or educationally.

Regarding reports on U.S. official Dennis Ross' decision to tour the region, including Lebanon, again, Minister Buwayz explained that the U.S. desire to make basic progress and supervise a declaration of intentions before the end of the current year differs from the Israeli proposal, which reveals Israel's inability to make any progress in the peace process, least of all on the Lebanese and Syrian fronts. This is because its domestic circumstances cannot withstand speedy progress, a situation that could halt the peace process, according to Minister Buwayz's statement. He called attention to the fact that every country involved in the peace process has its special internal circumstances, which others need to understand.

Minister Buwayz added: I believe the Israelis asked Ross to cause a positive psychological shock among the Arab countries to facilitate the mission of the Israeli Government. He should do this by taking away some of the cards the Arabs hold in the negotiating process, such as putting an end to the boycott, which, according to our beliefs, can only be the price of a just and comprehensive peace. It would be impossible to discuss serious and fair negotiations if we start maneuvering.

Minister Buwayz affirmed that, from the Arab standpoint, peace between the Arabs and the Israelis is a joint peace and joint Arab action. An individual cannot be committed to it alone or cover it on his own. Therefore, I think that whoever believes that he has gotten ahead of the rest will, in the final analysis, be kept waiting at the finish line.

In evaluating President al-Hirawi's visit to the Vatican, Minister Buwayz said Lebanon is the testing grounds for the concept of coexistence, which the world might need in the future. The pope is concerned about making this experiment succeed because it represents a new political state that could be implemented throughout the world.

On diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel, Minister Buwayz explained that the Vatican is not keen on establishing such relations with a country that still occupies the lands of others, violates human rights, and does not adhere to UN resolutions. In addition, the Vatican has a special position on the status of Jerusalem, a city that combines all divine religions.

Buwayz Stresses Need for Syrian-Israeli Deal

NC1011140793 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that the Lebanese Government will not sign an agreement with Israel even if it withdraws from the occupied part of Lebanon unless this is linked with a Syrian-Israeli agreement. He told the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS today that Lebanon went to Madrid on the basis of common Arab action. Lebanon will remain committed to this until the end even if others go it alone, he said.

'Demands' in U.S. Note Opposed

PM0911144593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Nov 93 p13

['Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan article: "U.S. Demands"]

[Text] The U.S. note received by the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, and perhaps by other Arab ministries, is almost like the protocols of Zion in that it makes demands not assumptions as to what should be done. It not only requests what is contrary to Arab national interests but also maintains that any change of heart should be in the direction specified by Washington.

In practical terms, there is nothing new in the note except the fact that the statements, wishes, and sometimes "orders" which the Americans used to make on certain occasions are now put down in writing. There is also nothing new in the fact that Washington makes demands and offers nothing in return. If it is not confirmed that other Arab capitals received such a note, it would mean this is a new pressure on Lebanon as its is the only negotiation track on which there has been no progress, not even one step. Perhaps it is a watered down and ambiguous expression of the option of separating the various tracks, particularly the Lebanese and Syrian tracks.

It is true to say that if the Lebanese Government had a choice and could make its own decisions, it would not have hesitated to opt for such separation from the beginning of the negotiations, but it is even more true that all the parties, including the Lebanese Government itself, Syria, the United States, and Israel, never allowed Beirut to make its own independent decisions. Furthermore, neither the U.S. assurances nor the Israeli statements denying any ambitions in Lebanon managed to encourage Lebanon to proceed on its own track, at least to a point where it would not hurt Syria. The situation, therefore, is now more ambiguous than ever. If the two tracks are destined to proceed together, where would that take Lebanon and how would it affect the expected peace?

The note asks Lebanon to join the multilateral negotiations. It is known that Lebanon is boycotting these negotiations in solidarity with Syria and not necessarily out of conviction. Lebanese officials have, most likely, always searched for pretexts to justify their boycott of the multilateral negotiations rather than trying to persuade themselves to join the negotiations. The reason is clear: Boycott was the only option. Had there been any progress in the bilateral negotiations, it would have opened a gap in this negative stance.

The note also requests the formation of a Lebanese-Israeli committee to discuss arrangements for Israeli withdrawal

from southern Lebanon. Again, the decision is not made in Beirut. That is why the answer to that point, which was raised before, has been that Israel must first announce its willingness to withdraw and its commitment to the UN resolutions on the south before the formation of such a committee. That is obviously an "academic" reply, not to say mere talk, because it is in [Lebanon's] interest to put Israel's "withdrawal intention" to the test whenever there is an opportunity to do so.

Of course, the other demands, such as ending the boycott, allowing Israeli goods in, allowing Israeli civilian aircraft to use Lebanese airspace, and providing facilities for Israeli civilian ships, all fall within the normalization process and would mean normalization before signing [an agreement] and even normalization before a modest move toward peace between Lebanon and Israel. With the situation in Lebanon as it is, these demands are bound to appear to be very very suspect.

There is an important point. The note speaks of the importance of creating the right atmosphere for a meeting between the Syrian president and the Israeli prime minister to speed up progress in the negotiations. But the note does not say whether such a meeting would indeed be in Lebanon's interest. That is a legitimate question even though nobody can answer it frankly. That leaves the most important point, namely the call for a "better media" attitude toward Israel. That U.S. demand is strange, not because it constitutes a recognition of the "Arab character" of the region, which is new coming from the United States, but because it ridiculously assumes that the media are an obstacle to peace.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Receives Iranian Ambassador

NC0611203393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri reviewed current developments with Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh after receiving him at his home in Quraytim tonight.

After the meeting, the Iranian ambassador said that it was a protocol visit. He added that he and Prime Minister al-Hariri discussed Lebanese and regional issues, particularly bilateral relations in various fields. He said that Lebanese issues are linked in one way or another to regional ones. He then expressed the belief that Lebanon can overcome this difficult stage.

Speaker Birri Receives Samir Ja'ja'

NC0911074593 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri received Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' last night, when they exchanged views on the situation.

Birri Leaves on Visit to Vatican

NC1011135293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri left Beirut for the Vatican at 0900 today in response to an invitation from his holiness Pope John Paul II.

During this visit, which will last until Sunday, Speaker Birri will hold talks that will center on the Vatican's support for Lebanon in international forums, especially regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 to liberate the south and western al-Biqa'. The talks will also deal with support for Lebanon's example of coexistence.

Christian Meeting Announces Recommendations

NC0611191293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Excerpts] This morning, the expanded Christian meeting was held at the municipal offices in Zuq Mikhayil [in Beirut] at the invitation of the Phalangist Party. The meeting was chaired by former President Charles Hilu and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr and Ministers Michel Samahah, Nicholas Fattush, Shahe Barsoumian, Sulayman Tony Franjiyah, Jean 'Ubayd, and Mikha'il al-Dahir. Also attending were Chamber of Deputies Deputy Speaker Elie al-Firzli, 19 deputies, and many political, social, and religious figures and representatives of political parties. [passage omitted]

This afternoon, al-Firzli announced the positions of the conferees as formulated by a drafting committee consisting of Ministers Samahah and 'Ubayd, Deputies Elie al-Firzli and Auguste Bakhus, and George Sa'adah, Shakir Abu-Sulayman, and Joseph Abu- Khalil. [passage omitted]

We now listen to Deputy al-Firzli reading the positions:

[Begin al-Firzli recording] 1. The role of the Christians in Lebanon and its neighboring Arab countries has been, and must remain, a major and pioneering one. It is, moreover, a mainstay of the formula of common existence, which makes Lebanon more than just a homeland but upgrades it to the level of a homeland with a message. Any retreat from or belittling of this role endangers Lebanon's existence and empties it of its cultural content.

2. There has been a retreat in Christian participation in public responsibility and involvement in state institutions. This is due to the disappointments and catastrophes of the war in general and destructive internal fighting in particular. It is also due to foreign interventions and false wagering on them. The political authority's sluggishness in handling this matter with various excuses and its failure to implement the national reconciliation document fairly and even-handedly are also to blame.

3. Regional developments and changes call for general alertness and common and comprehensive responsibility. The failure of any party to participate in this responsibility harms Lebanon's fate and causes the country lose its national, independent decisionmaking capability. The conferees take this opportunity to appeal to all politicians to return to Lebanon and practice politics within the framework of the legal and constitutional institutions and the rules of the democratic game. They call on the competent authorities to work to remove any obstacle to their return and their exercise of politics.

4. Christian participation in the national decisionmaking process requires the following, among other things:

a. That the course pursued by the political authority be more harmonious with the provisions of the National Accord Document, to avoid any deviation that might subject Lebanon to new threats;

b. That the issue of the return of displaced persons to their homes be given the national attention it merits, particularly by preparing the areas they evicted for receiving returnees, for guaranteeing a secure and dignified life for them at various levels, and for enforcing the necessary laws pertaining to displaced persons;

c. That the significant role expatriates can play in supporting Lebanon and contributing to its economic revival be underlined; and,

d. That a clear-cut national plan be developed to cope with regional changes. This plan must be based on an objective understanding of regional and international reality. In this plan, the Lebanese and Syrian responsibilities must be equal and interconnected because, in addition to what already links them, the two countries are two basic partners in this confrontation that seek to liberate the land from the Israeli occupation and the settlement [word indistinct] and to safeguard their security, safety, and independence. The longer the authority delays in fortifying the country with such a plan, the more it empties the independent national decisionmaking process of its meaning and spoils the concept of the distinctive Lebanese-Syrian ties, instead of building them on clear principles within the framework of sovereignty and independence.

5. The conferees view this consultative meeting, called by the Phalangist party, as the beginning of a consultation process that must continue at the Christian level as well as the national level. They entrust the follow-up committee that will be set up with the following tasks:

1. To enhance and expand the scope of this consultation process; and,

2. To develop a political action plan that guarantees the achievement of the agreed objectives that pave the way for an all-embracing national conference based on our belief in a free and united Lebanon. Thank you. [end recording]

Information Minister Salman Interviewed on Peace

NC0911174593 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 2 Nov 93 p 3

[Report on interview with Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman by Muwaffaq Madani at the Syrian Ministry of Information in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] The Syrian position regarding the ongoing settlement process in the Middle East is not a cause for concern to Syria. As is said in Damascus, the domestic situation in Syria is solid enough to enable it to face the fluctuations in the region. It can bet on its role, cohesion, and ability to lead the Arabs to return to the basics of solidarity and action at the international level and to rally around their legitimate rights.

The impression you get from Syrian officials you meet is that there is international support for Syria's position, which holds tight to the Madrid formula, which is based on a just and comprehensive solution in accordance with the principles of international legality. The statements issued by senior Saudi officials, particularly Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah and Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, in support of this Syrian position reflect Syria's satisfaction following the Gaza-Jericho agreement with the availability of adequate Arab motivation to safeguard the rights that have been the core of the Arab position in the regional conflict. In addition, Syria is satisfied with its endeavors with all the Arab states that work to consolidate its position at the regional and international levels. What is more important in the eyes of the Syrians and the senior officials in Damascus is the interest given to current Lebanese-Syrian coordination at the highest levels.

However, Syria is concerned with some observations and critical remarks in the Lebanese media that interpret the current coordination process between Lebanon and Syria, both of which seek to consolidate the rule of institutions rather than that of parties and militias and to safeguard Lebanon's border as a sovereign state instead of leaving these borders open and loose, as constituting Syria's custodianship over Lebanon. Damascus is concerned about insinuations in this regard because, as Information Minister Muhammad Salman says: This does not diminish Syria's standing, but discounts Lebanon's independence and sovereignty as well as the stature of the Lebanese officials, when it comes to personal insults against individuals, something that we cannot accept for the Lebanese people or officials.

While Syria has no differences with Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's government, contrary to what some people would like, Syria believes that Lebanon at present needs to consolidate its legitimate institutions so that these institutions, alone, can embody the rule of the law and the unity of the people.

I reviewed these concerns with Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman in two sessions at his office in the Information Ministry. According to Salman, when Syria makes a political decision, they [not further specified] say in Damascus that the decision is based on economic and popular foundations. The popular masses have confidence in the ruling regime which, from the economic point of view, has eliminated class distinctions and, from the political point of view, rules in the name of the [National Progressive] Front. For this reason, Salman says that the regime in Syria has become a political and social regime, one that groups all factions of the people. This has created an atmosphere of cooperation and positive coexistence between the employee and the employer, the traders and the public. This has made everybody believe in one thing when it comes to national issues. The political parties operating in Syria, which make up the National Front, have established this system because they all have a political dialogue among themselves on how to build the homeland. Everybody should rally around and agree on Hafiz al-Asad. Salman adds: Here in Syria the decision is a national one that is not made unilaterally. The decisionmaker knows what he has got and seeks the national and domestic cohesion on the basis of productivity, which enables Syria to always stick to its position. At the same time, this domestic cohesion is what makes the Syrian policy persist and work for strengthening Arab solidarity, which no regime can seek unless it is internally unified.

It is internal unity that makes Syria a foundation for the policy of Arab solidarity internationally.

Therefore, Salman says, nobody at present cannot [as published] bet on the Syrian political situation, because everyone deals directly with President Hafiz al-Asad and Syria based on the fact that it is demanding the restoration of its lands. This is what is happening. Syria believes that all Arabs stand by it at present to restore that right, regardless of the conflicting views on the Gaza-Jericho agreement or Israel's attempts to promote new projects.

The Syrian information minister told AL-DIYAR that the critical point is the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Although Arab solidarity was built and gained strength by depending on the notion that the Palestinian problem is the core of pan-Arab conflict with Israel, Arabs found after the agreement that every occupied part of the Arab land has the same core. Therefore, Syria and Lebanon must be supported in their struggle to restore the occupied lands and work to hold Israel to its withdrawal from these lands. Minister Salman remarked that the second point is that Syria and Lebanon cannot agree to share the land with Israel, contrary to what happened with the Gaza-Jericho agreement, where negotiations were held to divide the land between the PLO and Israel.

Salman added that 'Arafat negotiated the land and its partition outside the limits of the resolutions of international legitimacy. In contrast, Syria and Lebanon are negotiating the full restoration of the occupied lands. None of them has accepted sharing the lands with Israel.

The Syrian information minister was told that some people believe that the issue of south Lebanon is almost

resolved by Resolution 425. Why then would Lebanon bind itself to Syria in the current negotiations, he was asked? He replied: Everybody believes that since 1974, after the Geneva conference and before the U.S. initiative was announced, Israel has maintained a strategic position summed up in its disinclination to negotiate with Arabs collectively; it raised the issue of bilateral negotiations to escape the commitment to implement the UN Security Council resolutions that focus clearly on its withdrawal from the lands it occupied. There were then no occupied Lebanese territories, but there were occupied Syrian and Jordanian lands. Hence, Israel met separately with Anwar al-Sadat, setting a precedent of such separate meetings. It was this precedent which made it easier for Israel to break through the Arab wall and meet separately with the PLO.

Salman added: At the separate meetings in Camp David, Israel did not implement UN Security Council Resolution 242; rather, it added what served its interests. It served these interests fully in the Palestinian section. It was Israel that gained by drifting from the UN Security Council resolutions. When it wants to negotiate separately with Lebanon, Israel wants to serve a new interest in Lebanon by imposing provisions and agreements not provided for by Resolution 425. In this policy, Israel depends on the notion that "the terms of a contract bind the parties to it"; the entire world will be bound by what the two sides agree.

Moving on to Yasir 'Arafat, Salman said: What was offered to the Palestinians in the Camp David accords would have been better for Yasir 'Arafat than what the recent agreement offers. By remaining within the course of the American initiative—the initiative that is based on the international terms of reference as represented in Resolutions 242 and 338—Lebanon is submitting to the international will and what the UN Security Council views as being in the interest of both Lebanon and Israel. Lebanon is thus freed of any restriction that could be imposed on it at the bilaterals.

Hence, it is in Lebanon's interest to maintain solidarity with Syria until the dictation of international legitimacy, and not of Israel, are complied with. Israel always wants to deceive the world public and create a gap in the Arab ranks by insinuating that each individual Arab state has its unique national and regional interests that differ from all others. Its ultimate goal is to avoid showing this nation as united.

Israel refuses to negotiate with the Arabs as one group. It negotiates with them as states and different parties. This is Israel's main aim. This is world Zionism's plan. Therefore, in all phases we believe that the basic thing is for the Arabs to be united. When we are united, we are better appreciated, respected, and taken into account.

Asked about what dangers a settlement can pose for the future and identity of the Arab world, Salman said: If a settlement in the Middle East is to be really just, it must restore the land to its owners in an atmosphere of Arab solidarity. Pan-Arab interest must be the mover and regulator of Arab relations and Arab-international relations. It must make the Arabs cooperate directly with other states. Certainly, peace and a just and comprehensive solution in the region are in the interest of all.

However, if Israel is allowed to penetrate Arab ranks, undermine Arab relations, and establish economic blocs with some parties while excluding other parties, this will certainly create a grave political and social situation because it will subject the market and economy of the region to Israel's self-interests. Israel will thus have a strong base to deal with the other states of the world.

The Syrian Information Minister said: Israel is primarily seeking to control the oil resources in the Mediterranean so that the normalization [of relations] will come under the heading of facilitating the export of oil to Europe through the Israeli coast on the pretext that it is less costly than exporting it through the Gulf route.

Minister Salman continued: However, Israel's long-term goal is to become a partner in Gulf oil. He added: The grave thing is that the PLO has started the normalization process before Israel has begun withdrawing from the Arab territories and before the self-rule administration has been established. He further said: The danger lies in the fact that some [Arab] states want to normalize relations before Israel has withdrawn from the Arab territories.

He said: We want to add a note of caution. Is it illogical to reward Israel with the region's wealth without Israel offering anything so far?

The Syrian Information Minister said: Syria is satisfied with the states' support for its goal of establishing a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He said: The aim is to bring about Israel's withdrawal from Syrian and Lebanese territories, recover Jerusalem, and give the Palestinian people their legitimate rights. Only then will the Gaza-Jericho agreement be part of a settlement. This is what has been stressed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who expressed support for a comprehensive and just solution. Al-Faysal said something to the effect that whoever abandons this stand cannot be an Arab.

Asked about Syria's stand on those Palestinians who oppose the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Minister Salman said: Syria gives them freedom of action, movement, and choice. We will not interfere in their action because it is their right to be concerned about their rights and to follow any course that ensures their continued existence and the achievement of their rights.

He stressed that Syria and Lebanon will not accept negotiations to share lands. Egypt negotiated over Taba for seven years without forfeiting it, while Yasir 'Arafat did not take a long time before he accepted the minimum of land in a restricted way.

He affirmed that Syria supports the government of Prime Minister al-Hariri and has no disagreement with it. Syria believes Lebanon needs the unity of ranks and the setting up of institutions so that it can serve its national cause. He stressed the importance of coordination between Syria and Lebanon to liberate the land.

The Syrian minister added that Syria has always supported Lebanon so that it can be ruled by legitimate and legal institutions, without having the parties and militias that acted as alternative authorities in the past. The authority Lebanon needs is that of united legitimate institutions; the authority of the presidency, the Council of Ministers, the Chamber of Deputies, and the judicial authority.

The Syrian information minister believes that it is in the international interest to bring about a just a comprehensive solution in the region in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy. He remarked that this solution is the core of European and American interests, since it serves the interests of the Western world in the region without having to pay the political and financial costs. He added that this solution spares these states the need for a military presence, because such a foreign presence on Arab lands would create a negative reaction by the people and unnecessarily foster the growth of extremism.

Peace protects interests against extremist threats and spares the United States the need to provide assistance for defensive purposes, Salman remarked. He added that Israel insists on maintaining a regional role on behalf of the West and America to sustain the flow of financial assistance. We believe that regional stability must be based on a just and comprehensive solution and the legitimate resolutions as the basis for regional balance. Israel is trying to control the region in order to emerge as a power in Europe [as published], depending on the U.S. influence. It seeks to control regional economics to develop power vis-a-vis Europe, because Israeli productivity falters in the European markets. Meanwhile, Israel is certain of an easy flow in the Arab market once a settlement is made on its own terms, he said.

The Syrian minister believes that the process of a just and comprehensive peace depends on the United States and the pressure it can bring to bear on the negotiating process to develop it and speed up the establishment of peace. This depends on the U.S. Administration and the conference sponsors and their seriousness in giving impetus to the initiative to end the regional conflict and wage the peace battle. Leaving the matter up to Israel will only prolong the process, Salman said.

Minister Salman believes that Arabs should have maintained their solidarity at this stage in particular. He remarked that East Asian and East European states discovered that the road to the United States passes through the Israeli channel. They have therefore established ties with Israel.

He added: I believe that certain Arab states could have acted as a channel with the U.S. Administration, particularly those in which the Americans have many interests or those historically linked with it, like Egypt and Saudi Arabia. This requires Arab solidarity as well as seriousness in dealing with international changes, through charting inter-Arab and Arab-International relations. In their solidarity, Arabs can add a new dimension to international relations, because their discord will render them incapable of achieving anything vis-a-vis the Israeli attempts to take from them.

Salman concluded: This requires the development of inter-Arab relations that define ways of dealing with the powers of the outside world. The Gulf war was a setback for Arab solidarity and the Gaza-Jericho agreement also created a schism in that solidarity. This should be remedied by returning to collective agreement on the lawful Arab rights for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Receives U.S. State Department Official

LD0911210993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Estemmed Professor Bornahoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon received Mrs. Robin Raphel, U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asia, in the Golkhana hall of the presidential palace.

A BAKHTAR reporter said that during the meeting topics of international and regional issues and matters of mutual interest were discussed. Esteemed Robin Raphel expressed the hope that the Islamic state of Afghanistan will succeed in serving all the people of Afghanistan and maintaining lasting peace in the war-shattered country.

In response, esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani recalled with appreciation the selfless cooperation of the state and people of the United States during the years of jihad in Afghanistan and expressed hope that our international friends and those countries who stood by the side of the heroic Afghan nation in those years will cooperate now in the great task of revival and reconstruction of our country and the broken economy of our society.

Foreign Minister Receives Raphel

LD0911212293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] The Information Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry reported that esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, the foreign affairs minister of the ISA [Islamic State of Afghanistan], this morning in his office met with Mrs. Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asia, and her accompanying delegation. At the meeting the foreign affairs minister welcomed the arrival of the U.S. assistant secretary of state to Kabul. He recalled with appreciation the assistance of the United States during the years of Jihad in Afghanistan.

Explaining the foreign policy of the ISA, the foreign affairs minister stated that the people and [word indistinct] desire peace, stability, and tranquillity in the region and the world. He added that Afghanistan desires to take a constructive part in peace, stability, and progress in the region and opposes every sort of adventure which causes instability in the region and the world.

In response Mrs. Raphel stated that Afghanistan has central importance in South Asia due to it geographical location. It is hoped that bilateral contacts increase between the ISA and the United States henceforth. She assured the foreign affairs minister that the U.S. Embassy will reopen in Kabul, for mutual fruitful cooperation, subject to a suitable time and improved security situation.

Esteemed Mrs. Robin Raphel took part at a luncheon that was held in her honor in Golkhana Hall of the presidency. Taking part at the luncheon, that was given by the Foreign Ministry, were: Esteemed Amin Arsala, the foreign affairs minister; Deputy Foreign Minister Jalil Shams; and a number of high-ranking ministry officials; and from the U.S. side: Esteemed Richard Smith, U.S. counselor in Peshawar, and esteemed Thomas William, secretary to the U.S. assistant secretary of state.

Province Official Describes Battle at Tagab

LD0811183793 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 8, IRNA—Reporters on Sunday [7 November] visited Tagab, a small town northeast of here, which has been the scene of pitched battles between Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] forces and troops attacned to the Defence Ministry since Thursday.

Residents of Tagab, a town of 100,000 people located 90 kms southeast of Kabul, are still living in shelters and normalcy has not returned to the town although Hekmatyar's forces were driven back three days ago.

Fazl Ahmad Azimi, governor-general of Parwan Province and regional commander of Defence Ministry forces, told IRNA that the town was captured five days earlier by Hezb-e Eslami forces who tried to advance towards Tajrab and the Bagram Air Base in the province.

But in a heavy counterattack, the forces attached to the Defence Ministry managed to recapture the town and drive the attacking troops as far back as 30 kms from Tagab, Azimi said.

He claimed that Hekmatyar's forces suffered heavy casualties and losses in air attacks launched by an Air Force unit based at the Bagram Air Base.

Reporters visiting the battle fronts estimate that 110 people from both sides have been killed, scores of others wounded and six taken captive.

According to commander of the Bagram Air Base, General Bismillah Khan, the Defence Ministry has opened the way for negotiations but that it is Hezb-e Eslami forces who insist on war.

Clashes for Control of Shirkhan-Bandar Continue

LD0911205093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] The border town of Shirkhan-Bandar has been attacked by the forces of Sayaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union of Afghanistan].

According to a Central News Unit report, Ettehad-e Eslami in Kabul has claimed that its forces have succeeded in inflicting casualties and losses on General Dostam's forces, and have now captured the town of Shirkhan-Bandar. A spokesman for Afghanistan's National-Islamic Movement, in an interview with

reporters in Kabul today, confirmed that clashes had taken place. However, the spokesman denied that the town had been captured.

According to available reports, during the battles for the town of Shirkhan-Bandar, the forces of Jami'yat-e Eslami [Islamic Society of Afghanistan] are supporting the forces of Ettehad-e Eslami, while the forces of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] back General Dostam's forces.

The press relations officer of Afghanistan's National-Islamic Movement in Kabul did not confirm any of these reports. However, he stressed that the town of Shirkhan-Bandar is at present under the control of General Dostam's forces.

Meanwhile, reports from east Kabul indicate that battles between the forces of Hezb-e Eslami on the one hand, and the Defense Ministry and the Supervisory Council on the other hand, are still continuing. In the course of these clashes a Defense Ministry helicopter has been shot down by the Hezb-e Eslami forces.

Hekmatyar Urged To Ensure Kabul Electricity Supply

LD0811215293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Esteemed Mawlawi Arsalan Rahmani, the deputy prime minister, chaired a meeting of the cabinet at the prime ministerial palace this morning.

The press department of the prime minister's office told a BAKHTAR correspondent that at the meeting the current situation in the country was discussed. A letter was approved in which the cabinet asked esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister, to instruct his men to ensure the supply of electricity to Kabul.

The cabinet also decided that, in order to discuss the current situation in the country and maintain peace, the cabinet sessions should be continued.

BAKHTAR Assails Capture of Foreign Journalists

LD0911213193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Two AP and AFP journalists were captured by forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar in Sarobi yesterday. A BAKHTAR political commentator writes in this regard:

The capture of foreign journalists who wanted to reflect the truth about the battle in Tagab and incidents in Sarobi is contrary to all national and international norms. The arrest of journalists in the Sarobi area is not a new thing, but the length of the jihad waged by the mojahed Afghan nation is witness to the hostility of Hezb-e Eslami and Hekmatyar toward those journalists who reflected the truth of the Afghan jihad to the people of the world. During these years not only journalists, but workers of aid organizations and diplomats who were engaged in humanitarian assistance and services to the needy people of Afghanistan in various spheres, were not immune to intrigues and conspiracies of Hezb-e Eslami. [passage omitted] In addition, a number of intellectuals and writers opposed to the actions of the Hezb-e Eslami leadership were martyred on the instruction of Golboddin Hekmatyar.

The capture of foreign journalists in Sarobi shows that as a result of their defeat in Tagab district, the forces of Hezb-e Eslami, are so worried that they do not refrain from any sort of action, even against foreign nationals. The reporting of news about the defeat of the forces of Hezb-e Eslami was so intolerable to them that they are arresting journalists. accusing them of reporting the truth about realities in the Tagab battle.

While wishing complete health and safety to the AP and AFP journalists, we hope that they will be soon freed from the clutches of Hezb-e Eslami terrorists. We ask the international community to prepare the ground for their speedy release through exerting the necessary pressure.

Bangladesh

Police Baton-Charge Protesters; Over 100 Injured

BK1011130393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] In Bangladesh, over 100 people were injured when riot police lathi [baton]-charged and burst tear gas shells in different parts of the capital, Dhaka, today. Several vehicles were set on fire by the supporters of the opposition Awami League and Jatiya Party. The two parties separately organized sit-in demonstrations near the secretariat building since this morning. The Awami League is demanding, among other things, the repeal of the indemnity ordinance 1975 and anti-terrorism act 1992, and the trial of the Jamaat [Islamic party] chief, Gholam Azam, by a special tribunal for his crimes in 1971. The Jatiya Party's demands include release of the former president, General Ershad, from jail and fresh parliamentary elections under the caretaker government. Our Dhaka correspondent who visited various parts of the city reports that the riot police with automatic weapons virtually lay siege of the whole area around the secretariat and stopped the movement of all traffic.

Iran

French Embassy, Airline Office in Tehran Attacked

LD0911150193 Tehran IRNA in English 1428 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—First Secretary of the French Embassy in Tehran, Yves Manville, said here

Tuesday [9 November] that several unidentified persons threw two hand grenades at the embassy compund at noon, however, the grenades fell on the lawn of embassy, causing no damage. Manville told IRNA on telephone that another group also threw a grenade at the Air France office in Tehran which injured one and caused extensive damage.

According to the French diplomat, a group calling itself "the Hezbollah committee of southern Tehran" has claimed responsiblity for the attacks calling "it a warning to Paris for allowing Maryam Qajar Azodanlu, the third wife of Mas'ud Rajavi, to enter France."

Commenting on arrival of Azodanlu in France, Manville said, she has entered France to stay as a political refugee. However, he added, her residence permit dates back to 1983.

Asked whether following the mass deportation of the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] members from France, Azodanlu's residence permit is still valid, Manville said the French Government is studying the case from legal point of view.

The French diplomat added that no decision has yet been made over the issue. However, he quoted the spokesman of the French Ministry for External Affairs as having said earlier that the French government is avoiding the Mujahideen Khalq Organization because of its military nature.

French Offices Return to Normal

LD0911153393 Tehran IRNA in English 1517 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Situation in the French embassy and Air France office in Tehran are returning to normal five hours after two explosions took place in both premises, Tuesday [9 November]. The French embassy staff are doing their routine duties while workers at the Air France office in central Tehran are replacing windows shattered in the blast.

An Air France employee told IRNA that the bureau will resume its normal work as of Wednesday morning.

An eye witness who was near the French embassy at the time of explosion, said he saw two motorcyclists dressed in black speeding away from the scene after a boom was heard. The embassy staff declined to give more information on the incident to IRNA correspondent although according to a guard on duty outside the embassy compound they had briefed a Chinese reporter minutes after the blast.

Police Arrest Suspects

LD0911154793 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—Police arrested several suspects minutes after the attack on the French embassy at noon Tuesday, said a police chief in charge of guarding the embassy and the Air France office. Unidentified persons threw two hand grenades at the embassy and another one at the Air France office here at 12:50 local time.

The police chief said the Tehran police dispatched its special forces to the embassy following a call for help from inside the embassy. IRNA reporters said that police forces are patrolling the streets around the embassy.

The police chief did not give any information on the identity of the arrested suspects, but said his men are now investigating about the people who had passed by the embassy before the attack. A person who introduced himself as "the spokesman of the victims of the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] crimes" assumed the responsiblity for the attack in a telephone to IRNA.

"This is our first reaction to the admission to France of a ringleader of the MKO terrorist group," he added. He was apparently referring to Maryam Qajar Azodanlu, the third wife of MKO ringleader Mas'ud Rajavi, who arrived in Paris 10 days ago.

A police official said security around the embassy and Air France office has been tightened in fear of the likelihood of further attacks on French interests in Tehran.

Attack Under Investigation

LD0911221593 Tehran IRNA in English 2106 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told IRNA here Tuesday [9 November] night that the attack on the French embassy in Tehran was under investigation and "the facts will be disclosed as soon as they are discovered."

Mahmud Mohammadi who was commenting on Tuesday's grenade attack on the French embassy, further voiced "our strong diplomatic objection" to the French Government for hosting "agents of the terrorist Munafiqeen grouplet".

Munafiqeen refers to the outlawed Mujahideen Khalq Organization headed by fugitive Masud Rajavi. Rajavi's third wife, Maryam Azdanlu has been granted asylum by the French Government and she is now in Paris since about a couple of weeks ago.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman urged the French Government to reconsider its decision in offering asylum to MKO agents "in view of the destructive impact the group has had on Tehran-Paris relations in the past."

"The principal role of this terrorist group has always been to spread insecurity and harm relations between Iran and France," Mohammadi said.

He said that a careful investigation into the blast at the French embassy "could unveil some ambiguities to us and would probably expose new conspiracies against relations between the two countries."

MKO Denies Planning Cross-Border Attacks

LD0911143093 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 9, IRNA—The terrorist Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] in a statement Monday [8 November] denied the recent reports that the MKO is planning hit-and-run operations across the border region of Iran, Radio Baghdad announced. The statement, distributed in Paris, said "Iran by repeating its statements, attributes unfounded incidents to the opposition abroad."

In a statement last Saturday, the MKO grouplet said that the MKO ringleader, Mas'ud Rajavi, will be moving to areas near the Iranian border in order to personally supervise preparations for the operations against Iran.

Several MKO terrorists, arrested recently after illegally entering Iran, disclosed to IRNA that Maryam Qajar Azodanlu, is insisting on launching terrorist operations at Iranian border regions as a prelude to main operations. At least eight border dwellers were martyred by the MKO terrorists last month.

The MKO detainees further disclosed that several of their collaborators were jailed by the MKO for having objected the attacks on border dwellers.

Last Saturday, the French radio confirmed reports that Maryam Qajar Azodanlu has fled to Paris. The radio attributed her arrival in Paris to intra-group disputes among the Iraq-based MKO members.

She was recently chosen the president of the MKO in a bid to cover up the inaction and continuous failures of the terrorist group. Maryam Qajar Azodanlu was first married to Mehdi Abrishamchi, an aid to Rajavi, before becoming Rajavi's third wife. Azodanlu, who had a daughter from Abrishamchi, divorced him and married Rajavi in a bid to gain the rubber stamp status of the head of the terrorist group.

UN Team To Probe Iraqi Use of Chemical Arms

NC1011114993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] A UN team is scheduled to visit Iran next week to investigate the use of chemical weapons against the Shiites in southern Iraq. A UN spokesman has said that this group will investigate reports by Iraqi eye-witnesses, victims, and refugees. The UN spokesman has said that our country's officials have agreed to this delegation's visit to Iran.

Spokesman on Upcoming Visit by Iraqi Minister

NC1011095693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] In an interview with IRNA, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammadi referred to the Iraqi deputy foreign minister's upcoming visit to Tehran and said he hoped it would be a positive step toward the release of the remaining Iranian POW's in Iraq. He added that talks between Tehran and Baghdad on the issue started with the visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Zarif to Iraq and said the visit by Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Faysal to Tehran is expected to have satisfactory results.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also referred to the Indonesian president's visit to Tehran, saying: President Suharto of the Islamic country of Indonesia will come to Tehran on an official four-day visit from 23 to 27 November at the invitation of our President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. He also said that during the visit, the two countries' presidents will exchange views on bilateral relations, regional cooperation, the future course of the Nonaligned Movement, and the problems of the world of Islam. He added that the visit will effectively strengthen and expand regional and international cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia.

Final Installments of Mohtashemi Interview Published

'Arafat, Israeli Accord Viewed

NC0511123493 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 18 Oct 93 p 9

[Second installment of a three-part "exclusive" interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by an unidentified correspondent—place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Mohtashemi] Are the 100-million, 500-million or one-billion [currency not specified] assistance packages that the Arab countries extend to 'Arafat not considered as assistance to the PLO?

This aid definitely was for the PLO, and until the Persian Gulf war, 'Arafat and the PLO owed their lives to dollars from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries. As for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the situation was as I have explained. Therefore, on this basis, 'Arafat's allegations are lies.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Can you comment on the remarks made by Deputy Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani at his news conference with foreign correspondents in Vienna when he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is indifferent to the PLO-Tel Aviv accord?

[Mohtashemi] Such remarks do not reflect the stance of our revolution and of our system. The stance of the revolution was declared by the Imam; and during the past four years, the esteemed leader has always reiterated

the Imam's stances on Palestine, America, and foreign policy. These stances are clear. Therefore, the stance of the revolution is different from the stances of some statesmen—which is their own affair.

If it is true that this is what was said, it reflects a stance that is exactly opposed to the stance of the revolution and of the system. Of course some gentlemen may have justifications for such remarks. The government has chosen a path and has adopted a policy which naturally derives from this stance. Let us assume that the policy of the government is the unconditional establishment of relations and that this objective becomes a principle. This would then overshadow all other issues. One of the issues that will be overshadowed is the principles governing our foreign policy.

The issue here is what the foreigners want. What the West and America wants is to end the crisis in the region. Naturally, since establishing relations is a necessary element, then this request should be met. This is one of the issues of the new world order, and naturally our irrevocable principles vis-a-vis this situation will have to be altered. Within the context of the new world order which America wants, the Islamic Republic of Iran should be subject to what American wants in this new world order! Therefore, our principles and policies should be overshadowed by this new world order.

Today the issue is a new Middle East order. The West and America are seeking to form this new order in the Middle East, which they think should be formed around the pivot of Israel—politically, militarily, economically, industrially, and even agriculturally. The axis of this new order is to be Israel, around which the Middle East countries should orbit and find their places. Let us assume that Israel is meant to become the top economic, industrial, and agricultural power in the Middle East: Such a development should be ensured through Palestinian manpower, the dollars of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf, and Israeli technology. In other words, the formula for a regional order indicates that Israel needs pawns around it which it can move as it wishes and as things develop in the region. Naturally, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and so on, are the economic pawns who should inject dollars, while farther away are Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and other Far Eastern countries, who should also help in forming this new order.

Meanwhile, there are Turkey and Iran. Turkey should meet some regional needs by extending its services—and one of the basic needs of the region is water, which will help Israel to become an agricultural and industrial magnet. The task of providing water in the Middle East has been given to Turkey. The Arab countries in the Persian Gulf also need potable water which they could get from Turkey. In order to obscure the ignominy of Turkey's cooperation with Israel and to mitigate the pressures by the Muslim public opinion in Turkey over supplying water to Israel, as well as to meet the astronomic expenditures of this immense project—a 3,500-km long canal from Turkey via Syria and Jordan to Israel, where it is to be used to irrigate farmland in occupied Palestine—this canal is to branch off from Jordan to the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf. This project would cost more than $20 billion. The PLO-Israeli accord and the recognition of and compromise with Israel by the Arabs would help to promote this. The Turkish government has expressed its readiness to implement this American-Zionist project, and naturally it found the necessary justification for this stance to head off public opposition. This was that within the framework of the new Middle East order, Turkey would have the role of supplying water to all the regional countries that need it. The main recipient of this water would be Israel, while part of it would go to the thirsty Arabs in the region. Thus, Israel would become an invincible power in the region with the help of Muslim resources.

In other words, the plot that is being hatched by America and the Zionists is that Israel is to become a power that the Muslims cannot conquer by making use of the potentials, resources, and work force of these very same Muslims. And unfortunately both 'Arafat and the Arab countries are involved in this plot.

It is a source of great regret to us that an official who has a position in the Majles, which is the forum where the will of the Iranian nation is expressed, and who is also a member of the country's security structure should stand up and say that we will not take any steps to prevent this compromise. Can a Muslim not "heed" what he says and make such remarks and say: I am indifferent to the fate of an important country and to holy Islamic territory and I will not do anything to prevent the annihilation of Islam and the elimination of the Islamic territory of Muslims? Can anyone "knowingly" make such remarks? I pray to God that he has not made such a remark. If he has "knowingly' made this remark, then he is facing a problem. In other words, he should not be either in the Majles or in the system.

These remarks were so ugly and un-Islamic and inhuman that later on the Majles deputy speaker denied them and said—more or less—that the question and answer concerned military steps. This remark may have only been made in order to quiet the Islamic feelings of revolutionary and hezbollahi forces inside Iran, since the foreign mass media disseminated the original remarks that were published in the Iranian press.

The West and Israel have shown that by resorting to such a tactic, they have fooled the Arab heads of state, who are wandering behind them in a dry desert, seeing mirages, but rapidly approaching the swamp of death and destruction.

In my opinion, some of the countries—namely Syria—that have been caught in the web of these plots think that if they join the new regional order, their economic situation will improve and so on. And they feel that if all of them together recognize Israel, then the stigma of

having relations with Israel will vanish. Therefore, they think to themselves: What is wrong with discovering ourselves and regaining our life within this system?

The Syrian regime has been caught in this plot and unfortunately has accepted it. In other words, Syria can decisively reject 'Arafat's compromise with Israel only if it itself is not involved in a similar agreement. But when what lies before the Syrian statesmen is the prospect that in 3-4 more months they will be signing a similar compromise deal—with some differences—with Israel, they cannot allow themselves to adopt a stronger stance in opposition to the PLO-Israeli compromise. Unfortunately, it is very clear now that Arab countries like Syria have secretly recognized the occupying Israeli regime and that very soon this covert recognition will become overt and put in writing and will be disseminated to the world by the mass media.

But what is the most regrettable thing for us and all the hezbollahi forces and supporters of the revolution are the allegations by 'Arafat and the Palestinians. They have started a rumor and claim that during the Islamic Conference Organization meeting in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, during a meeting that Palestinian leaders and 'Arafat had with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, these issues and specifically the peace agreement with Israel were discussed and that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani acquiesced and did not voice any opposition. They allege that they coordinated with the Iranian president. These rumors are extremely hard to take for the hezbollahi and revolutionary forces and have dealt blows to our prestige and system and to the Islamic revolution among the Muslim nations. Of course, the stances of the revolution are clear, and the Imam delineated all the principles of the revolution's foreign policy, and no one can alter these principles. I said earlier that the esteemed leader also underlines all of the Imam's stances. Presidents and cabinets come and go, but the good and bad effects of their policies and stances remain. Such reports and rumors should be confronted. Such rumors disturb the Muslim nations in the four corners of the world that have turned their eyes and attention to the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the stances of the Iranian leaders. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani wrote articles and books about Palestine 30-40 years ago. And today, transactions are being carried out concerning Palestine and the compromising sides allege that they coordinated with him previously. I think that if he expressed opposition, he should decisively and clearly refute these allegations. This situation cannot be tolerated by the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran.

The Persian Gulf war and Iraq's retreat from Kuwait contributed to the setting of the sun of 'Arafat and the PLO. They neither gained access to Kuwaiti nor to Iraqi oil, nor to the support from oil, the Arabs, and the Americans. They thus came to lack credibility in the world of Islam as well as in the Arab region and even in the West and America. Basically speaking, colonialists have always been mischievous in their political calculations. Well, one of the pieces of mischief of America and of the Zionists was in buying off 'Arafat and the PLO. They easily made use of 'Arafat—that disrespectful and worthless person—to serve their objectives. But it is very easy to use such a flimsy and rootless organization and individual for illegitimate purposes. 'Arafat has been revived by the enemy and today he is serving their objectives.

There are some plants and animals that have to eat clean food to live, and there are some plants and animals that do not. If a human being falls so low as to be fed by the enemy and serve the enemy, he is like an animal that thrives on excrement and is capable of resorting to any act against everything—from religion, to his country and his people. 'Arafat is in such a situation now. It is Zionist and American psychology to find such people, work on them, and prepare them to strike at genuine and Islamic movements.

At any rate, when a person like 'Arafat sees that he is alone after the Persian Gulf war—and he had already confronted the Islamic revolution and had separated his ranks from the revolution of Islam and of the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, and also had separated himself from the ranks of the Arabs; and when he saw that he had no place inside Palestine, then such a person was ready to sell himself. Today the PLO and 'Arafat have sold themselves; and that is why 'Arafat does whatever the enemy wants him to do. And today the compromise deal with Israel was signed exactly under such conditions. [passage omitted]

However, a piece of advice for the Islamic forces—both Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and others—after the compromise deal is that the Islamic forces should do exactly the opposite of what Israel wants them to do in Palestine In other words, they should precisely avoid any confrontation among Palestinians. The justness of Islam should be preserved not only for the people of Gaza and Jericho, but inside all of Palestine, so that they too will be affected. In other words, the bonds to Islam and to Islamic culture should be so strong that those who have just arrived in Palestine will be affected by these cultural movements. The Intifadah's overt activities and movements should be transformed into a third movement. In other words, instead of the people going into the streets for an overt confrontation, they should organize a symbolic, more effective, and clandestine or underground movement. Whatever operation is carried out against the Israeli forces outside the Gaza-Jericho area will make Israel confront 'Arafat's forces—that is, the 'Arafat whom they have bought for the sake of Israel's security—and they will ask them where he and the PLO were when these operations were taking place and why the elements involved were not identified and confronted. It is here that the Israeli-PLO confrontation will begin and this will help not only in avoiding extinguishing the fire of the Intifadah but in the culmination of its struggles. [passage omitted]

All these things will lead to a confrontation between the enemy forces and 'Arafat; and when these two sides confront each other the Intifadah will join in support of 'Arafat's forces to fight against the Zionists. It is here

that each side will help the other. 'Arafat's forces will see that the Muslim who was in the mosque has come to defend it today. Naturally they are conscientious people. They are Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims. This will help the Intifadah not only to avoid decline, but to expand and to increase. Actually at this juncture the Intifadah should alter its tactics and its mode of struggle, which will automatically and inevitably lead to a confrontation between the other faction and the Zionists.

Of course there are various means to achieve this end. But it is not as though someone can sit back and outline combat tactics for within Palestine. At any rate, we are not inside Palestine; and they will definitely study more effective ways to confront the occupying regime themselves.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Recently we heard in some news circles that in some of his speeches, 'Arafat is saying that the PLO has not seen any good from their neighbors and that those who claim to support Palestine have done harm instead. Apparently he also referred to the remarks by Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani, who had stated that Iran does not have any practical objections to the PLO-Tel Aviv compromise.

These comments by 'Arafat sparked off remarks in the Arab world. How logical do you consider 'Arafat's justification to be?

Also, do you consider this stance to be within the framework of the Islamic revolution's stances or was it only the views of a specific individual or group?

[Mohtashemi] Since 1974 'Arafat has shown his true self. He has rejected any type of movement, including an armed movement, against the enemy—an enemy who has used force and arms against Palestine and driven the Palestinians out of their homes.

At the United Nations, 'Arafat held an olive branch in one hand and a gun in the other and said: We do not rely on arms any more. Since then, 'Arafat started telling the entire world that he was ready for talks and a compromise. This was an indication that he had made a change, but it was not obvious at that time that this change was a 180-degree turn. From that date, 'Arafat turned his back on struggle and turned to compromise. But regional conditions, the condition of the Palestinians, and the situation in the Islamic Arab countries did not allow him to say: We have completely laid down our arms. However, he actually did do so and started the process toward compromise. From then on, 'Arafat became a major obstacle to the Palestinian forces that believe in an armed struggle for the vindication of the rights of the Palestinians.

'Arafat himself and his associates were pro-Western and dependent on Arab kings and sultans. Therefore, 'Arafat's compromise became more and more overt each day until the day when the Islamic revolution won. At that time the nature of 'Arafat's transactions dictated that he also carry out some sort of transaction with an Iran that had once had direct relations with Israel and America and was Israel's supporter in the various Arab-Israeli wars but which had now become an anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli Islamic stronghold. It was at this point that he arrived in Iran.

Relations With U.S. Assessed

NC0811073793 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 19 Oct 93 pp 9, 2

[Third and final installment of an interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts' [passage omitted] [JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is Your Excellency's view of the mission and duty of the country's mass media, especially the press, and how many of these duties does the press perform?

[Mohtashemi] Basically, the mass media should reflect views, ideas, and current realities in society. For example, if the mass media try to distort the truth, not only will they not be acting according to their mission, they will also be committing treason. Unfortunately the situation in society and the approach by the various organs is such that our mass media—from newspapers to magazines—do not deem the situation suitable to reflect truths and the people's aspirations and wants and they sense that they cannot reflect the current realities in society for public consumption. If a newspaper or a magazine wants to carry out this mission, they either isolate it or place many obstacles in front of it so that it cannot continue to operate. Of course, political, material, technical, and many other levers are available and are being used to distract the mass media from the correct path of their mission.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] As someone who has been involved in publishing and previously published BAYAN magazine—which may have been closed because of the problems you have listed—how are you currently carrying out your duty of informing the people?

[Mohtashemi] Naturally, any committed person, whether he follows a specific ideology or not, has certain obligations toward his country, the revolution, Islam, and the Islamic Republic, and no one can remove this responsibility from his shoulders or remain indifferent. There was a time when we published BAYAN and carried out our duty through it. This was how we carried out our mission in the various cultural, political, economic, and social fields. However, the situation that emerged prevented us from publishing the magazine. Of course, no one came to close the magazine. But the forces that cooperated with us were treated in such a way in society, in government institutions and organizations, and the problems that we faced in printing and in enjoying certain facilities all helped to stop the publication of BAYAN. If all the necessary equipment is there but there is no printing press, then a magazine cannot be published. And if we have to beg here and there in the publication, then the magazine cannot meet its deadline and will not be published.

The problem that we faced was that the presses avoided printing the magazine because they faced some problems and were afraid that if someone realized that they were publishing BAYAN, some of the facilities that they enjoyed would be stopped, the printing press would be boycotted, and so on. So no one was prepared to face the problem. Therefore, we limited our activities to one printing press. But we do not know whether that printing press was also under pressure or if its proprietors did not want to print the magazine.

We were constantly facing obstructionism. It is very interesting! [punctuation as published] that despite the fact that each week the KEYHAN group published its own magazine on time, when it came to our magazine they always said that their machinery had broken down or that they had to print their own or another magazine, and so on. Therefore, things reached the point where BAYAN was no longer published.

Now I saw my mission in the various fields of the revolution, or Islam, and of the Islamic revolution, and I have divided this mission into various sections. One section is scientific research and the Islamic field, which I teach at the Qom Seminary. The other section concerns daily problems that Islamic society, both in Iran and outside Iran, is facing, as well as world problems that concern Iran. And each time I feel the urge, I write an article that I give to certain newspapers to publish, or I state my opinion in interviews, and naturally the Muslim people at home and abroad are informed of my views. The other section concerns lectures or answers to questions that are raised at scientific and academic centers. This, in short, is what I am doing now.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] How do those ideologues who follow your school of thought convey their ideas to the people?

[Mohtashemi] Naturally, they are facing a similar situation, and they carry out their mission wherever and whenever they have the opportunity to do so. Of course, the roads are closed for activities in many fields, and they are not granted the right to be active in these fields or these people sense that there are no grounds available for their activities. But at any rate, communicating, discussing, assessing, and even steps taken by forces that follow the imam's way of thought continue to exist. Efforts are being made to strengthen these processes, which are developing and growing because the hezbollahi forces and those who are truly interested in the revolution and in the imam are feeling more and more that the rightist faction that has completely dominated the country's executive system has not only failed in its slogans, such as social welfare, increased production, low prices, abundancy, and so on, but are inflicting more and more irreparable blows on the revolution and the principles of the revolution with their policies and economic, social, and political programs. The harm that is inflicted by the rightists on the values and principles of the revolution and on state affairs is so great that the need for concordance with the processes of revolutionary thought and with the views of the imam is being felt more and more.

I am hopeful about the future. Of course I pray to God that the effects of what the rightist faction is doing will not increase so much that repairing the harm will become very difficult or impossible, even though some of the elements in the prevailing executive system say that they have done something that cannot turn things back and regardless of whether they or any other people are in power, the same policies and programs will have to be implemented. I hope this does not happen.

The Iranian nation has proven that it was able to destroy the United States, with all its power and with the system of diktat that it imposed on Iran, and establish a revolutionary system. Let the rightist faction do what it wants now. When the people determine that the path they have chosen is wrong and contrary to the values of the revolution and of the imam, then they can naturally bring about the necessary changes with the same determination that they had before.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Mr. Mohtashemi, were you and your family happier with the high prices that prevailed during Engineer Musavi's government?

[Mohtashemi] I will only tell you that the total income of the ministers and those who were on the same level as ministers was about 160,000 rials until the end of Musavi's term in office and that we were able to live on this money. But now, even though wages have increased, it is difficult to live even on 300,000 or 400,000 rials. This is something that all the people are feeling. [passage omitted]

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] What is your opinion of some of the people who are today or were previously in the Majles and who talk about relations with the United States?

[Mohtashemi] I don't think that these people are worth talking about because, not only do they lack revolutionary roots, their record in the revolution is also clear. They neither participated in the revolution nor did any of them even warm their hands over the fire of the revolution.

Of course, there are some post-revolution revolutionaries who did not even do this. There may be some who say that they did nothing before the revolution, that they were studying for a degree or that they were not involved in the struggle. There are those who were not thrown into prison, were not beaten, and did not distribute even one statement against the regime, but now that the Islamic revolution has come, they express support for the revolution, the revolution's aspirations, and the imam and are defending all these. This is a post-revolution revolutionary. Such people are worthy of respect and praise, and their ideas and expertise should be used. But there are some who had no revolutionary roots either before the revolution or after, and they are now working directly against the aspirations of the revolution and have unfortunately found a position in the executive,

political, and legislative bodies of the country. These people should be rejected since they are working against the revolution's values and principles, and what they are doing should be studied and discussed. Otherwise, as individuals, they are not worth discussing.

Some of these people were brought up in the United States and the West, and their way of thought matured there. They were brought up from adolescence in these countries. For example, a person who was 15 when he went to the United States and suddenly acquired a political position after the revolution cannot understand and realize what the revolution is. [passage omitted]

The gist of the letter is that we act according to what the United States wants, that we cooperate and coordinate with the United States, and that everything should be Americanized so that the problem will be solved?! Whatever we and the people in this region have suffered has been because of the United States, and now this gentleman says that problems can be solved by establishing relations with the United States and by coordinating and cooperating with the United States. [passage omitted]

This gentleman should be asked: Was the deceased shah not cooperating and coordinating with the United States?! Did the people not face economic problems at the time of the corrupt monarchy?! Did the shah not do everything in coordination with the United States? If he was coordinating with the United States, then why weren't Iran's problems solved? Is Turkey not a U.S. pawn? Has Turkey been able to solve its economic problems? Has it been able to solve its border problems? Greece is on the other side of this border. It is Turkey's old enemy, and Turkey is threatening it every day. Has this problem been solved?

We should tell this gentleman: You say that if we solve our differences with the United States, our problems will be solved. It is as though you consider the Americans to be God on earth. If the United States could do that, it would have solved its own problems at home. Figures show that the United States is the least safe place in the world because of armed and other robberies, murders, social corruption, rape, drugs, alcoholism, accidents, and so on, and that Americans are constantly the target of hatred and threats by political opponents abroad. If the United States is unable to ensure the safety of its citizens at home and abroad, how can it solve your security problems in the Persian Gulf? [passage omitted]

You say that the implementation of Resolution 598 is contingent on peace with the United States and that if the United States wants to, it will help implement this resolution. First of all, most of the paragraphs in this resolution have been implemented, and there is no need for the United States. Second, those paragraphs that have not been implemented—such as war compensation—have not been implemented because Saddam's crimes have done such great harm to Iraq that they do not have any money, so how can they pay $1 trillion in compensation to Iran? The whole world got together to make Iraq compensate Kuwait. It has nothing to give. We are speaking about Kuwait, which had the support of the entire world, and more than 10 UN Security Council resolutions were issued on it. Now you say that if we improve our relations with the United States, we will receive the war compensation?

This is the most elementary theory that one can propound. If we want to go beyond this, we can say that this is the foreigners' theory aimed at misleading public opinion and that it is a plot that has been engineered to wipe out the ugliness of relations with the United States. The least we can say is that they placed this plan in the hands of a simple person who does not have a correct picture of society and of politics. In other words, he has become a means to achieve a dangerous end. But this letter did not have an official signature, and unfortunately the writer of this letter does not deny that he wrote it. But the fact that he does not deny writing this letter does not prove that he was the author.

Therefore, either the plan is linked with foreigners or it is linked with a domestic process that is trying to push the country toward the West and toward the United States, and a naive person is being used to take the pulse of society and of the revolutionary and hezbollahi forces to see how sensitive they are to this issue. The other possibility is that this theory reflects the views of a single person, in which case, the adage that an ignorant friend is worse than an enemy applies.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] The leadership recently adopted an extremely harsh stance vis-a-vis relations with the United States, and since that time, individuals with such ideas have not said anything. How do you assess the stances of the esteemed leader and the president on these issues up to now?

[Mohtashemi] The esteemed leader has stated his views and has strongly criticized such ideas, but, unfortunately, the president tries not to react in such cases.

[JAHAN-E ESLAM] Since Your Excellency was among the renowned and active ministers in Engineer Musavi's cabinet, can you please tell us how much foreign debt Prime Minister Musavi's government had at the end of its term and how much our foreign debt amounts to now? What impact do you think the rumors that Iran cannot repay its debts will have on the future?

[Mohtashemi] Unfortunately, when a government is no longer in office, it cannot defend itself because it does not have the mass media at its disposal. Therefore, realities cannot be reflected and are altered through false propaganda and the injection of a series of incorrect information that leads to incorrect judgments about a cabinet that is no longer in power—for example, when the cabinet in power speaks about the past cabinet's debts.

At any rate, they say that at the end of Mr. Musavi's term, when I was a member of his cabinet, the government had $12 billion in foreign debts. This is what the Central Bank has said. [passage omitted]

Now our country has something like $40 billion in debts, and I think that the interest on this debt is between $6 and $7 billion. You can calculate and see that when our income is not even $15 billion and we have to pay $6 or $7 billion in interest, how great a loss we are suffering and how the repayment of these debts is breaking our backs.

DPRK Envoy Criticizes IAEA, U.S. Actions

LD0911181593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Nov 93

[Text] Choe Yong-no, the ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Iran, said today that North Korea will respond seriously to every kind of threat by the United States.

In an exclusive interview with our reporter, Choe added: We are ready for officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to inspect our country's nuclear installations, on condition that the organization's experts are not influenced in their actions by United States promptings.

The North Korean ambassador in Tehran criticized the operation of the IAEA, saying that many countries in the world, such as Israel, are currently in the process of producing nuclear weapons. The IAEA ignores this and is constantly bent on satisfying America's wishes.

Choe condemned the behavior of American officials who have always exploited the Security Council as a lever to try and end their differences with other countries in the world. He emphasized that the government and people of [North] Korea will respond resolutely to every military action taken by the United States.

Nejad-Hoseynian Comments on Visit to Finland

LD0611185393 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 6 Nov 93

[Text] Vienna, Nov. 6, IRNA—Iran's minister of heavy industries, Hadi Nejad-Hoseynian, concluding his 5-day official visit to Finland said that current basis for Iran-Finnish industrial and economical cooperations were promising.

In an interview with IRNA Saturday [6 November] he added that Finland, with the cooperation of Iran's heavy industries and oil ministries had started a project four years ago in the Caspian Sea, presently at its final stages, for an oil rig platform.

He also expressed his optimism for several more new Iran-Finnish projects to begin soon in Iran.

He noted that an understanding has been reached on the joint financing of a production line for heavy lift and diesel engines.

Iran-Finnish private firms are also to cooperate on several projects related to food stuff packaging. Joint seminars is to be held for industrial training of Iranian workforce, Nejad-Hoseynian added.

Finnish officials have been informed of Iran's geographical position as a gateway to the 300 million strong Central Asian market and since 30 per cent of Finnish exports formerly went to the ex-Soviet Union (presently down to 5 per cent), Iran could act as a major partner for Finnish exports to the region, Nejad-Hoseynian said.

Commenting on the balance of trade between Iran and Finland, he noted that an equal level should be reached and said that Finnish exports to Iran for 1992 were dlrs 150 million while its import of Iranian goods for the same period stood at dlrs 40 million.

He stressed that a delay of Iranian payments to Finnish industries was discussed and all misunderstandings cleared in a satisfactory manner. The amount of delayed Iranian payments to Finland is dlrs 50 million, concluded the Iranian minister.

Zimbabwean Speaker Arrives; Nateq-Nuri on Ties

NC0711074593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Zimbabwean Parliament Speaker Nolan Makombe arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a high-ranking parliamentary delegation and was welcomed by Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri at the airport.

After arriving in Tehran, Makombe said that the objective of his visit to Tehran and talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the expansion of relations.

Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri told our reporter that the expansion of relations with Third World countries, especially African countries, is a policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Since Iran and Zimbabwe are members of the Nonaligned Movement, the two countries can cooperate closely on international problems.

Commenting on the two countries' economic relations, he said: [Begin Nateq Nuri recording] In regard to economic issues, we will ask him, God willing, to further activate our joint economic commission, and since we hope for this to be achieved soon, God willing, this visit will help toward this end. We do have economic relations, but these relations should be expanded, especially in view of the potentials that exist. We can use these potentials and we can also extend great assistance to Zimbabwe in various fields, especially in heavy machinery and industry.

As far as political issues are concerned, since both Iran and Zimbabwe are active members of the Nonaligned Movement, we can better coordinate our steps in this regard. Zimbabwe is active in all international forums, and such visits can help to better coordinate decision-making in these forums. [end recording]

Seeks Expansion of Relations

LD0711181393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The Zimbabwean national parliament speaker, who is in our country at the head of a delegation, met and conferred with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri this morning [7 November].

According to a Central News Unit report, during the meeting, Nolan Makombe termed his visit to Tehran as an important step toward expansion of the two countries' relations.

He explained the political and social situation and the economic problems in his country, which are due to droughts and the adverse world economic situation, and called for Iran's cooperation with Zimbabwe in the fields of agriculture and industry.

Nateq-Nuri also expressed Iran's willingness for the further expansion of relations with Zimbabwe and said: The setting up of a joint economic commission as well as parliamentary friendship groups would serve as effective steps toward the expansion of economic ties between Iran and Zimbabwe.

The Majles speaker expressed the hope that Iran will be able to have good cooperation with Zimbabwe in the vehicle manufacturing industry.

Nateq-Nuri also criticized the multiple-standard policies of the United Nations and termed it a tool for the implementation of American policies and called for action by members of the Nonaligned Movement to deal with this problem.

The Zimbabwean national parliament speaker also stressed the need for the expansion of cooperation between members of the Nonaligned Movement.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0811164893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] The president of Zimbabwe's Senate, Mr. Makombe, who is currently in Tehran at the head of a parliamentary delegation from that country, was today received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mr. Makombe, in the course of this meeting, conveyed the warmest greetings of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and said the objective of the delegation's visit to Tehran is to study the grounds for expanding cooperation between Iran and Zimbabwe, particularly in political, economic, and commercial fields. He presented a report on the positive course of the talks between the two countries' parliamentary delegations and various visits in Tehran. He said: During this trip we set up an Iran-Zimbabwe parliamentary group, which we hope will expand future parliamentary cooperation between the two nations.

Referring to the history of the struggle waged by the black Africans against racism, Makombe thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for supporting this struggle. He also submitted a formal invitation from Robert Mugabe to our country's president to visit Zimbabwe.

Afterwards, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing delight for the exchange of views between the two countries' parliamentary delegations, stressed the need for strengthening ties between Iran and Zimbabwe, particularly practical implementation of the past agreements in view of the importance of bilateral relations, the issues of Africa in general, and closer cooperation in the Nonaligned Movement.

Referring to the IRI's policy of supporting the struggle of oppressed blacks in South Africa, the president expressed the hope that by removing racism and the continent's difficulties, the black majority of the region would take charge of their own destiny.

International Seminar on Privatization Opens

LD0711194593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Excerpts] [Unidentified announcer] The second international seminar on economic activity, which is to present the experience of countries in privatizing state companies and to study the possibility of using these experiences in our country, started its proceedings in Tehran. [passage omitted]

During the international seminar on privatization, Eraj Akbariyeh, deputy head of Iranian national industries, spoke to us on Iran's experience in privatization.

[Begin Akbariyeh recording] Some 173 companies were identified during the privatization program for privatization by the Organization of National Industries. During the past 2 and a half years, we have handed over the shares of 60 companies. Of course, some of the shares belong to workers and these are in the process of being handed over. We have also handed over 50 percent of the country, some 400 billion rials [words indistinct]. In parallel with privatization activities, and because this is the country's first experience, we have been carrying out studies on privatization. We produce a monthly publication on the subject and more than 30 research articles have been prepared, which have been sent to various organizations. Recently, we contracted a number of university tutors, as a result of which nine books have been published. [end recording]

[Unidentified announcer] The international seminar on privatization, taking place with the participation of researchers, experts, and officials from the universities and economic organizations of Iran, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Britain, will continue until tomorrow afternoon and will study Poland's experience in privatization of state companies and the role of banks in the privatization process in Iran.

'Greater Emphasis' on Privatization

LD0711192893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] Today, during the inaugurating ceremony of the second international seminar on privatization, the minister for economic affairs and finance stressed: The aim of privatization is not only to change ownership but also to increase the output of production workshops. This is one of the most important aims of implementing the privatization program.

Pointing out the creation of a healthy competitive climate as another important goal of privatization, Mohammadkhan said: Taking into account that in the past several years more than half of the country's budget has been allocated to private companies, the necessity for change is inevitable in the management system of the companies in order to increase productivity.

The minister said that the aim of bringing about economic adjustment is to create suitable conditions for the better use of the country's economic resources. He added: The discussions on privatization complement the policy of economic adjustment.

Pointing out the long history of private sector activity in Iran, he stressed the necessity for creating the cultural and social climate necessary for the acceptance of privatization in the country.

Mohammadkhan added: In the Iranian year 1370 [beginning March 1991], the value of assets owned by state companies was about 400 trillion rials [as heard] and the private sector's total cash in the official economic system was 28.6 billion rials, constituting about 6 percent of the assets owned by state companies. This limits the ability of the private sector in purchasing shares of state companies.

He said: The productivity of companies that have had their shares sold on the stock exchange has, in some cases, increased two or three times. The government will continue the privatization policy with greater emphasis.

Official Describes Plan

LD0811165093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Excerpt] We begin this hour's news reports with an item about the continuation of the international seminar on privatization.

The vice president for economic affairs announced today that the second [five-year] plan should pay attention to greater utilization of capital and new technology, as part of the engine for growth and development. The necessary means for greater utilization of capital and modern technology should, therefore, be provided in the country.

Addressing the second international seminar on privatization in Tehran, Mr. Nurbakhsh added: We all unanimously agree that the objective of privatization is not to make a quick revenue for the government or to transfer ownership of economic units, rather the objective is to increase efficiency. However, greater efficiency would increase the government's revenue in the future too; and this can help toward public welfare and social justice.

Mr. Nurbakhsh went on: We have begun the first phase of the privatization program through decision-making, compiling laws, and preparing regulations in the first plan. And in the second plan we should expand the course of privatization by better specification of the regulations, removal of shortages, overcoming weaknesses of the organization in charge of privatization, and by creating sufficient demand for the shares issued by various companies. This can be achieved through fair pricing, through facilitating the transfer of shares and share dividends, and through continuous supply of information from various privatized companies to the new share holders. [passage omitted]

Official Airs Views

LD0811201093 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—The government will step up measures for handing over companies to the private sector in the second 5-year development plan to start next March, Deputy Chairman of National Iranian Industry Organization, Iraj Akbariye said at the second international seminar on privatization here Monday [8 November]. Akbariye, however, added that implementation of privatization policy requires further exchange of views between senior government officials.

He also spoke of some changes at the stock exchange in order to persuade people to actively participate at the stock market.

The second two-day international seminar on privatization started work yesterday with participation of senior officials and local and foreign experts and university instructors.

The first international seminar on analytical survey of privatization was held May 8-13 this year.

Pakistan

U.S. Warned Not To Expect Nuclear Concessions

BK0911143193 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] While [word indistinct] Raphel is a welcome visitor to Pakistan, having created goodwill for herself and her government after having reiterated a truth which is universally known, that Kashmir is a disputed territory, and not an "integral part of India", and the dialogue with her at the working level in the Foreign Office and the leadership will be marked by the appreciation of her and her

Government's position on Kashmir, it is felt necessary, in a friendly manner to second a note of caution on what she should not expect from Pakistan, both its people and government, now or at any future date.

Although it is said that there is no fixed agenda for her talks in Pakistan, but judging from her statements, it is obvious that her main emphasis in the parleys will be an Pakistan's nuclear programme: The Amercian demand is that Pakistan should freeze the programme, roll it back and later destroy it.

Unfortunately on 9th February, 1992, the Foreign Secretary's statement's clarification of the interview he gave to the Washington Post in Washington is couched in such a humiliating tone that the lobbies which want Pakistan to destroy its nuclear programme must have been encouraged to press further. In this he had spoken of the "assurances" given (to whom is obvious) that Pakistan has frozen its nuclear programme at 1989 level, etc, and gone beyond the permissible limits to make all sorts of debasing statements, debasing because we were supposed to be having a reciprocal approach on the matter with India, and we have bound the hands even before India gives the same "assurances". Always ready to oblige others even at the risk of our national interests, the maximum concession that could be given without any mandate has been given and to expect any further would be risky, and unjustied.

—With all the politeness and appreciation due to her, it should be pointed out that it would be a mission impossible to expect that any compromise on nuclear programme is possible, or it would be for her government to twist Pakistan's arms on nuclear issue.

—What is being demanded is neither covered by international law nor by any consideration of international morality.

—Let us not go into all the details now, revealed umpteen times about Israel's nuclear capability, its delivery system, its space vehicle, Shevit II, and what not, including the Arrow Missile being prepared in association with and financed by the US.

—Against whom it needs this? Particalarly after the so-called Peace Accord between Israel and the PLO? It is quite clearly not a permanent member of the UN Security Council. What justification Israel has in possessing it?

—This is where the question of international morality commes looking at one side with a blind eye. Nuclear weapons are a danger to humanity, agreed. But if the world is destroyed by them, it will be by American or Russian nuclear weapons if the Russians are supposed to be a danger because of mere possession of the nuclear weapons. Why not go for universal non-proliferation. Only where one practices morality, one can speak about it. Pardon me, it does not behove a sinner to preach stop doing what he is very fond of doing.

Under the International law, when Pakistan is not a member of the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], it is not bound by its provision. Nor the so-called Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) has any sanctity in international law. It is a cartel's own ground rule, with no force of international law. Again what about its application on Israel? Shevit II's Inter Continental Ballistic Missile Capitality does not cover the Missile Cartel's ground rules.

—But getting away from these considerations, nuclear option is essential for Pakistan's survival. That is why when poor Moin Qureshi revealed that Pak nuclear programme had been capped, there was a furor against him branding it as treason, little realising that he was merely revealing a decision taken in February 1992. One cannot oblige even the best friends at the expense of national security.

—This selective approach towards nuclear and missile programmes in which Israel can go scot free, has led to a school of thought maintaining that if the West and Russia can have 9 nuclear powers, why Asia cannot have four at least China, Pakistan, India and Iran.

—One can understand if the demand was made that Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme should not exceed that of Israel's but not that Pakistan should give it up and all others have it. What is the logic?

—In a way, raising this issue at this period can be destabilising for the new democratic government. A great section of public has been uncomfortable with Ms Benazirs' pro-America attitude, apprehending that this might lead to a compromise on Pak nuclear programme. Coming so soon after her assumption of office, such fears might be reinforced. The mission is therefore innopportune and unwise.

Bhutto Receives Message from Iranian President

LD0811221493 Tehran IRNA in English 2135 GMT 8 Nov 93

[Text] Islamabad, Nov. 8, IRNA—Iran's visiting Chief Justice Ayatollah Moreza Moqtada'i here Monday delivered a message from Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

In his message to Mrs Bhutto, the Iranian president has expressed his pleasure about the peaceful elections in Pakistan, and also expressed hope that the results of that elections would further ensure the country's stability.

In her talks with the ayatollah, Bhutto voiced her happiness with the state of relations between Iran and Pakistan, and observed that maintaining good relations with Iran is priority goal of the government in Islamabad.

The Pakistani president [as received] also lauded the Iranian women for the role that they are playing in the various aspects of life in Islamic Iran.

Bhutto expressed her concern about continued siege of the Hazratbal shrine by Indian troops in Srinagar, Kashmir.

She also said that both Iran and Pakistan were continuing their efforts for returning total stability to Afghanistan.

In response, Ayatollah Moqtada'i said the Islamic Republic looks forward to seeing a relaxing of pressure on the people of Kashmir by the Indian Army and a better recognition of the rights of those people by the Indian Government.

He also expressed hope that the joint efforts of the two countries would eventually help to return peace to neighbouring Afghanistan.

At the meeting, Prime Minister Bhutto also lauded Iran's efforts in the campaign against drugs, and voiced willingness on the part of Pakistan to benefit from Iran's experience in that area.

On Sunday the Iranian chief justice met his Pakistani counterpart Naseem Hasan Shah and members of Pakistan's Bar Association and judges of the Supreme Court of Lahore.

Shah expressed hope that his country would be able to follow Iran's model in the fight against drug trafficking.

The Iranian chief justice arrived here Friday for a seven-day visit.

Judicial Cooperation with Iran Urged

LD0711222193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Nov 93

[Text] The heads of the supreme courts of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have called for closer cooperation between the two countries in the judicial field.

According to the Central News Unit, reporting from Islambad, Dr. Nasim Hasanshah, head of Pakistan's Supreme Court, said at a meeting today between our country's high-ranking judicial delegation and members of the lawyers' association of Lahore city: Iran and Pakistan enjoy good and fraternal relations and cooperate well, and they are endeavoring to make their laws compatible with the sublime teachings of the Islamic religion.

According to this report, at the meeting, Mr. Morteza Moqtada'i, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Supreme Court, pointed out that Iran considers Pakistan as its closest Islamic friend. He added: The two countries have emphasized that cooperation between them in various dimensions, including judicial cooperation, should increase.

PRC, France, Sweden Offer Credit To Buy 3 Submarines

BK0911094193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 9 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Karachi (PPI)—France, Sweden and China have offered long-term buyers credit to Pakistan for the purchase of three submarines immediately needed by Pakistan Navy as their present fleet has become old.

A committee headed by A.G.N. Kazi former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has been formed by the government for holding negotiations in respect of purchasing the three submarines from these countries.

Disclosing this in Karachi on Monday [8 November], Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sayeed M. Khan told newsmen that according to the programme one submarine would be purchased outright, the second will be constructed partially in Pakistan while the third wholly at home.

He further disclosed that during his recent meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, she had agreed in principle to his proposal that the submarines replacement plan will have a mandatory clause in the agreement for transfer of technology from the country these submarines will be bought.

This proposal would now be referred to the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet for approval following which negotiations would start with concerned authorities in France, Sweden and China.

He did not specify which country's offer was better and added that it would depend on the course of the negotiations.

Admiral Sayeed M. Khan said he had briefed the Prime Minister for providing funds for three major projects of Pakistan Navy. These include construction of submarines at home, development of Ormara Naval Port and construction of major warships.

The Naval Chief said that construction of Naval warships was sophisticated, more difficult and expensive.

He expressed confidence that during 1993-94 the major warships building projects might be launched with the help of friendly country possibly China.

He said a ceremony for starting work on the Ormara Naval Harbour on the Balochistan Coast will be held in February next year.

To another question Admiral Sayeed M. Khan said: "We have been projecting the cause of the Navy for rebuilding and constructions of warships and submarines for which there should be a separate budget."

Referring to the launching of the 150 tonnes patrol craft, the first fighting unit for the Navy, he said it was designed and built with available resources of the Navy.

Libyan, Egyptian Immigrants To Be Deported

BK0511141993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Nov 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 4—The Libyan an and Egyptian nationals working with the Afghanistan-based NGO's [non- overnmental organizations] in Peshawar are unwanted in Pakistan as the Federal Government has directed the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] government to clear them out, official sources here told The Muslim on Thursday.

The sources said the Federal Government has asked the NWFP Government to take steps to ensure that the Arab nationals working with the Afghanistan-based NGOs are reduced by 50 per cent.

While directing the provincial government of NWFP to completely shed off Egyptians and Libyans working with the NGOs in Peshawar, the Centre has also directed that there should be no fresh hiring of the Egyptian and Libyan nationals by the NGOs.

Official sources said that visas for the Libyans and Egyptians who are already in Peshawar, are not being renewed.

Official sources said that the Government of Pakistan has been frequently receiving complaints from Arab governments that the criminals and outlaws from their countries after absconding are staying in Pakistan under the cover of NGO employees. On the complaints from the Arab countries, Nawaz Sharif government had carried out an operation against illegal Arab immigrants and expelled about 200 such people from Pakistan.

The Federal Government has also suggested to the foreign NGOs to shift to Afghanistan to carry out relief work there since a large number of Afghan refugees have gone back to that war-devastated country.

Government Studying Ways To Expel 'Afghan' Arabs

PM0811164693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Amir Tahiri report: "Benazir Trying To Avoid Inclusion on 'Terrorist States' List; 3,000 Afghan Arabs Face Expulsion From Pakistan"]

[Excerpt] Islamabad, London—Some 3,000 Afghan Arabs [Arabs who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin] from 13 Arab countries are facing expulsion from Pakistan as part of a campaign launched by the new Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto against members of extremist groups scattered through Pakistani cities. Benazir formed a four-man committee comprising military and civilian experts to prepare a plan "to root out elements involved in activities hostile to Pakistan's interests," a source from the new government told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday.

Most of the "Afghans" affected by the decision live in Peshawar, and have links with about 30 charity organizations set up to support the Afghan mojahedin during the war against the former Soviet Union. Egyptians, Sudanese, Libyans, Jordanians, and Algerians form the majority.

The four-man committee, headed by a former general, is considering three measures: to stop extending residence and work permits granted to the Arabs during the Afghan war; to examine the financial resources and tax records of charity organizations; and to order these groups to move their offices from Peshawar, Quetta, and Islamabad to the Afghan capital, Kabul. [passage omitted]